FRIDAY
August 2, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 184

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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THIRD-HIGHEST EVER

GST collections cross ₹1.82 lakh cr. in July

BUSINESS » PAGE 17

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Leaking roof triggers Opposition attacks

NEWS » PAGE 15

MULTIPLE CLOUDBURSTS

Four dead, 49 missing in Himachal Pradesh

NEWS » PAGE 14

PARLEY

Is Centre being iniquitous in State transfers?

Is Opposition's concern about bias valid?

OPINION » PAGE 13

CRUISE CONTROL

Lakshya moves into the quarterfinals

SPORT » PAGE 20

MUDA 'scam': Governor told to withdraw notice to CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar addressing the press after a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Bengaluru on Thursday.

In a major development in Karnataka politics, the Congress government on Thursday advised Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to withdraw the show-cause notice issued to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asking him why sanction for prosecution against him should not be given in the case of alleged irregularities in distribution of sites in Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The Council of Ministers advised the Governor to reject the petition filed by activist T.J. Abraham seeking sanction of prosecution in the case over allotment of 14 sites to the CM's wife in lieu of 3.16 acres of land belonging to her being acquired by MUDA.

The Governor had given one week's time to respond to the show-cause notice, the deadline for which ended on Thursday.

Accusing the Centre of attempting to destabilise a democratically elected government in the State, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who chaired a nearly five-hour-long meeting of the Council of Ministers, as the Chief Minister recused himself from it, said: "The Centre is using the Governor to disturb the government here. This is a murder of democracy and murder of the Constitution. The Governor is showing haste in issuing showcause notice even before going through the documents submitted by the government as well as a lengthy petition given by the complainant, both of which were given on July 26. The Governor issued the show-cause notice on the same day as the complaint was given by Mr. Abraham."

Similar petitions seeking sanction of prosecution against former BJP Ministers Shashikala Jolle and Murugesh Nirani were pending since 2021 and early 2024, while prosecution sanction against another former BJP Minister G. Janardhana Reddy has been pending for a much longer time, said Mr. Shivakumar, who was flanked by Ministers, Priyank Kharge, Krishna Byre Gowda, G. Parameshwara, K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil, M.B. Patil, and Byrathi Suresh.

Why such haste?

Mr. Shivakumar questioned the haste with which the Governor had issued the show-cause notice to the Chief Minister on the same day he received the complaint from Mr. Abraham.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 8

States can sub-classify SCs for quotas: top court

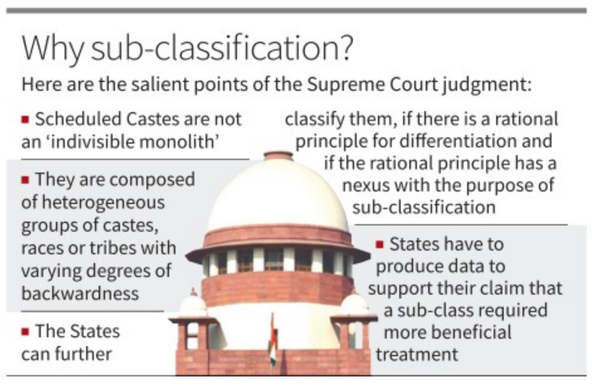
Supreme Court holds that sub-categorisation within a class is a constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality, if the social position of the constituents is not comparable

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In a 6:1 majority judgment on Thursday, a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, held that the States have the right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List to provide them more preferential treatment in public employment and education.

Referring to how a nine-judge Bench in the *Indra Sawhney* case had held it constitutional to classify the backward class into "backward" and the "more backward", Chief Justice Chandrachud said the same principle would apply to the SCs.

"The principle of sub-classification will be applicable to Scheduled Castes if the social position of the constituents among the castes/groups is not comparable... Sub-categorisation within a class is a constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality," he said.


Why sub-classification?
Here are the salient points of the Supreme Court judgment:
Scheduled Castes are not an 'indivisible monolith'
They are composed of heterogeneous groups of castes, races or tribes with varying degrees of backwardness
The States can further classify them, if there is a rational principle for differentiation and if the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification
States have to produce data to support their claim that a sub-class required more beneficial treatment

He, however, remained silent on introducing the creamy layer principle to the SCs and STs.

'Creamy layer principle'

Four of the seven judges on the Bench separately said the government should extend the "creamy layer principle" to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as in the case of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. It was necessary to exclude affluent individuals or families from the benefits of reservation and make room for the underprivileged within these classes, they said.

"The State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action. In my view, only this and this alone can achieve the real equality as enshrined under the Constitution... Can a child of IAS/IPS or civil service officers be equated with a child of a disadvantaged member belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in a gram panchayat/zilla parishad school in a village," Justice B.R. Gavai asked.

The view was backed by Justices Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal and Satish Chandra Sharma.

Chief Justice Chandrachud's joint opinion with Justice Misra that it was constitutionally permissible for the States to sub-classify groups among Scheduled Castes was backed by four other judges. Justice Gavai opined that the unequals have to be treated unequally to bring "real equality".

"It is the duty of the State to give preferential treatment to the backward class of citizens who are not adequately represented," Justice Gavai said.

Justice Bela Trivedi remained the lone dissenter on the Bench, saying the States did not have the power to tinker with the Presidential List of Scheduled Castes.

The Constitution Bench judgment followed a reference made to the seven-judge Bench in 2020 to examine the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars Reservation Act, 2009 and the Punjab Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

NEARBY

Kumaraswamy does a U-turn

BENGALURU
The uncertainty over the proposed padayatra of the Opposition parties in Karnataka ended on Wednesday with JD(S) State president and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who had left the coalition partner — BJP — red-faced by opting out of it, did an about-turn on Thursday and agreed to inaugurate the eight-day foot march. » Page 8

Photos of leaders on textbooks draw ire

BENGALURU
The portraits of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar printed on the cover page of textbooks of the newly started pre-primary classes in anganwadis have drawn the ire of many. The usual practice is to have just the government emblem. » Page 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

'No one alive in Wayanad disaster zone'

E.M. Manoj
MEPPADI (WAYANAD)

Massive efforts: NDRF and Fire and Rescue personnel searching for bodies at Chooralmala in Wayanad on Thursday. THULASI KAKKAT

The teams engaged in rescue and search operations at landslide-hit Chooralmala in Wayanad have recovered 189 bodies – 85 men, 76 women and 27 children – and 100 body parts from various locations, the Revenue Department said. The gender of a deceased is yet to be identified.

All those stranded in the area have been evacuated and shifted to hospitals and relief camps, Major General V.T. Mathew, Sub-area General Officer Commanding, Kerala and Karnataka, who is coordinating the Army's rescue operations, said.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited the site and interacted with the officials of the Central forces. At an all-party meeting chaired by Mr. Vijayan, Major General Mathew informed the government that the odds were that no one was left alive in the disaster zone.

The Army completed the construction of a Bailey bridge linking Mundakkai and Chooralmala on Thursday.

Forest officials rescued several families stranded in a cave deep inside a forest following a landslide near Attamala. Braving heavy rain, the rescue team carried children to safety with the help of ropes. As many as 234 individuals rescued from the disaster zone were shifted to various hospitals. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and other agencies are working relentlessly to speed up rescue operations and provide relief to those in need, despite the inclement weather.

Unconfirmed reports put the death toll at 295. Forensic experts have carried out post-mortem examination of 252 bodies and body parts.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the landslide-affected people on Thursday.

MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 11

T.N. fisherman dies in bid to evade arrest by Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan
L. Srikrishna
COLOMBO/ RAMESWARAM

An Indian fisherman from Tamil Nadu died early on Thursday after his fishing boat capsized in Sri Lankan waters while resisting arrest by a Sri Lankan Navy patrol vessel, authorities said in Colombo.

While a search operation is under way to find another fisherman, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested two others from the capsized boat.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Swapnil guns down third shooting medal for India

On target: It was Swapnil Kusale's turn on Thursday to win a shooting medal in Paris after Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh. He won a bronze in the 50-metre rifle 3 position event. RITU RAJ KONWAR

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Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

Swapnil Kusale had an Olympic debut to remember, winning a bronze – India's third medal of the Games – in the men's 50m rifle 3 position event on Thursday.

The 29-year-old from Kambalwadi, near Kolhapur, was lying in fifth place at the end of the kneeling and prone segments of the event - a whole one point behind the third-place shooter.

He would then find his rhythm in the standing position even as those around him lost theirs.

2023 World silver medallist Jiri Privratsky of the Czech Republic, who was in the fourth place, and 2022 World Championships gold medallist Jon Herman Hegg of Norway, who was in the lead at the start of the series, both fell behind him and Swapnil held on to take a career-defining medal behind Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine and Liu Yukun of China.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 19

IMD forecasts above-normal rain in Aug., Sept.

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Knee-deep in trouble: An auto rickshaw struggles to negotiate a waterlogged road in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Amid rain-triggered landslides killing over 200 people in Wayanad of Kerala, and intense spells battering Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal rain in August and September.

August, the second rainiest monsoon month, is expected to receive normal rainfall, and September more rainfall than the average 17 cm every year if the IMD forecast of an "above-normal second half" of the monsoon comes true.

"The rainfall averaged over the entire country from August to September is likely to be above normal (>106% of the Long Period Average (LPA)," the agency said in a statement on Thursday.

In recent years, rainfall has been increasing in September and this could damage standing crops.

"Our weather models suggest that La Nina or La-Nina-like conditions are likely to develop towards the end of August. So this could mean more rain in September [than normal]," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD.

Unusually heavy rain in September and October, when the monsoon officially retreats, can alter winter sowing and spike air pollution in northern India.

July, the rainiest monsoon month, recorded 30.5 cm of rainfall when averaged across the country, or nearly 9% more than normal. This is in line with the agency's forecast on Thursday, when it said that rain during the month would be "above normal", meaning 6% or more than usual.

Indications that Kerala would receive very heavy rain were issued beginning July 29, Mr. Mohapatra said. "We issued an orange alert on the 29th, which is a sign to authorities to take preparatory action. States should not wait for a red alert. Following that on July 30 early morning, we issued a red alert," he said.

CSR wings for Olympic dreams

What started as a philanthropic act a decade ago, capital investment in sports as part of Corporate Social Responsibility by India's private sector is driving a change. Building infrastructure, funding potential medallists and increasing the participation of women are now serious nation-building activities

AP, GETTY IMAGES, RITU RAJ KONWAR

N. Sudarshan
Vijay Krishnamurthy

Sarabjot Singh, the second Indian to win a medal at the ongoing Paris Olympics, grew up in Dheen, a village in Ambala district of Haryana. In an expensive sport like shooting, Sarabjot's family could not have imagined his journey without systemic support, especially the financial aspect.

Regardless of the sport, associated funding in a developing country is always tough to come by. When education, health and sanitation are more pressing concerns, government allocation for sports is often considered a luxury than a necessity.

But in the present-day world where sporting success is considered one of the most important vehicles of national identity and an indicator of soft power, governments are more eager than ever to undertake the tough balancing act between bankrolling sporting activities and taking care of the nation's prime developmental needs.

It has been no different in India and something that has given governments leeway has been the increasing footprint of finances as part of various companies' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) interventions.

The likes of Reliance, Tata, JSW, Infosys and many others have joined hands with various government bodies as well as other private not-for-profit organisations like Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ) and GoSports Foundation to develop infrastructure, improve existing facilities, provide access to sports science, and support athletes in areas where focus has been historically low.

India's latest shooting sensation Manu Bhaker, Javelin champion Neeraj Chopra, shuttlers P.V. Sindhu, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty and Lakshya Sen, boxer Lovlina Borgohain and hurdler Jyothi Yarraji among others have been beneficiaries of such partnerships.

The triggers

This transformation in the funding space has been catalysed by two legislative moves. Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, mandated CSR projects by every company having net worth of ₹500 crore or more, or turnover of ₹1000 crore or more, or a net profit of ₹5 crore or more. Under Schedule VII of this act, "training to promote rural, nationally recognised sports, Paralympic and Olympic sports" was added as a CSR-eligible activity.

Then, in 2016, the scope was widened by including the "creation and maintenance of sports infrastructure, upgradation and renovation of existing sports facilities, and sports science support including setting up of gymnasiums and rehabilitation centres." The Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High Performance Centre, JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports and Infosys Foundation's investment in Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) are examples of this.

"The CSR Act (2013) is a big motivator," Prof. Sanjeev Tripathi from the Indian Institute of Management (Indore) told *The Hindu*. "Now that firms have to spend 2% of their net profits on CSR, they are looking for opportunities to spend. The other factor is the visibility and impact of the investment. Compared to healthcare and education, the investment in sports, especially if they result in medals, is celebrated and has a halo effect on the corporates from the perspective of national glory. Further, the returns on sports investments seem to have a lower gestation period than investment in other avenues."

Sport, being a sunrise sector, had initial investments that were experimental in nature. However, with every Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics, the positive impact (i.e., medal tally) has encouraged an increase in investment. "What we are witnessing is the bandwagon effect. The success achieved by some corporates has encouraged others to follow," added Prof. Tripathi.

Upward trajectory

Numbers back this hypothesis. According to a report prepared in April 2023 jointly by PACTA, a firm focusing exclusively on the legal needs of the social sector, and Sports and Society Accelerator, an independent not-for-profit organisation focused on building the sports ecosystem, CSR in sports has grown consistently.

In 2014-15, investments worth ₹58 crore were made and in 2020-21 it stood at ₹242 crore, with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 27%. This matched the growth of all activities under CSR, which rose from ₹6043 crore in 2014-15 to ₹25,715 crore in 2020-21, again at a CAGR of 27%.

These outlays have been roughly through three types of models. First is the Public-Private-Partnership model like the one that the Odisha government has stitched with Reliance Foundation to create a Athletics High Performance Centre. The second is where the corporate houses manage everything, like how the Tata Group has done with the Tata Football Academy and Tata Archery Academy in Jamshedpur.

And in the third, firms like OGQ and GoSports act like bridges between corporates and the sporting world. Through fund-raising, these non-profit sports organisations receive grants from corporate and individual donors, and manage the program design and execution.

As a result, there have been improvements for all to see. Training areas are worldclass and impeccably maintained. There are resources for exposure trips, and top coaches, physiotherapists and nutrition experts are being hired.

The PPBA, which is nestled amidst the sprawling Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence on the outskirts of Bengaluru and the place where Lakshya – and now Sindhu – train, is a case in point. With help from Infosys Foundation and OGQ, a teenaged Lakshya trained under the legendary Morten Frost, winner of four All England titles, and the Dane was even hired as a consultant coach at PPBA.

"We could send Lakshya to Denmark for three months and there he made a mark and started winning. That gave him the confidence," said Vimal Kumar, former National champion and Lakshya's long-time mentor and coach.

Enlarging the pool

There has also been a significant change in the narrative involving women sportspersons and differently abled athletes. The collaboration between Infosys Foundation and GoSports to help fund a weightlifting academy is the best illustration of this.

Sathish Sivalingam, a gold medallist at the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games, wanted to open the doors to talented girls at his academy in Vellore district (Tamil Nadu). Sathish, who was once helped by a GoSports program, sounded out the idea to Deepthi Bopaiah, CEO of GoSports.

"When my team visited the weightlifting academy, it was pretty much just bricks and a basic setup that they had," recalled Bopaiah. "They didn't have a nutritionist, a physio, or anything. Yet, talented girls were attempting to get to the district-level competition."

Approximately 200km west of Vellore, at the Infosys offices in Bengaluru, projects were being shortlisted for meeting the organisation's mission of empowering women. While GoSports had worked with Infosys Foundation on a different project, Satish's new proposal was unique. The trainees included only girls and women.

A scenario emerged wherein all three stakeholders – the sponsor, the implementation partner, and the beneficiary, had the same objectives in mind. "In the past, GoSports worked with athletes directly," said Nandan Kamath, Co-Founder and Managing Trustee, GoSports.

"Now, with the partnership, it became a real opportunity to build an athlete-centric, coach-led, academy-driven model that allows us to take a systemic approach to developing sports talent with a long-term view."

Thus, in May 2023, the 'Girls for Gold' program was launched to identify and support talented Indian women athletes aged 13 to 19. A grant of ₹30 crore was dedicated to provide a support system for athletes and coaches from five academies – Lakshya Shooting Club, Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation, Sathish Sivalingam Weightlifting Foundation, Raman TT High-Performance Centre, and Yadav Pro Badminton Academy.

Viren Rasquinha, former India hockey captain, has witnessed both sides, earlier as an athlete and now as Director and CEO of OGQ. "CSR in sports has been a massive boon," he said. "When I was a player, if you got injured or fell sick, you're out of the team. We did not have any idea about the right nutrition, strength and conditioning, and recovery. Everything was via self-learning. All these things have massively improved."

What initially started as support for existing athletes has now expanded into identification of sporting talent at junior levels.

"We [OGQ] started supporting Sindhu when she was 13, and Lakshya when he was 11," Rasquinha pointed out. "It's been a 12-year journey with Lakshya just to reach the Olympics. Today, we support over 400 athletes, and 150 of those are in the age-group of 11 to 19. These are going to be the future Sindhus, Lakshyas and Mary Koms."

Half-full, half-empty

However, it is also true that CSR in sports remains a small piece in the overall pie. Cumulative figures from 2014-15 to 2020-21 show that sports still accounts for just 1% of the total spends; health and education are 21% and 31% respectively.

Even among the corporates who spend, it is not more than 5% of their overall commitment. In 2020-21, Reliance alone contributed nearly thrice as much as the next best company. CSR in sports is also highly concentrated in just a few states like Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Delhi and Jharkhand, with the top-five states in this list accounting for 37% of the entire amount.

Another cautionary note, as Rasquinha pointed out, is the thin line that exists between CSR and marketing. This is perhaps why the Companies Act specifically excluded one-off events like marathons, awards, charitable contributions and advertisements from the CSR ambit.

Nevertheless, the private sector has played a noteworthy role in India's ongoing sporting transformation. In the early days of CSR donations, regulatory compliance and tax breaks were the tangible benefits. As time passed, sports offered much more. What started as a philanthropic act has now led to branding, employee engagement, and an overall sense of nation-building.

"We are in this for the long term," a Reliance Foundation spokesperson said. "We have been working towards developing India as a multi-sport nation, including leading its Olympic movement. India's sporting journey is at an inflection point, but there is still a long way to go."

THE GIST

- The Companies Act, 2013, mandating CSR activities that included sports training, and an amendment in 2016 that brought in creation of sporting infrastructure, have given a big fillip to investments by the corporate sector
- Companies like Reliance, Tata, JSW and Infosys are joining hands with the government alongside not-for-profit bodies like Olympic Gold Quest and GoSports Foundation to fuel India's Olympic journey
- From ₹58 crore in 2014-15, CSR in sports stood at ₹242 crore in 2020-21, a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 27%. This mirrored the overall CSR growth during this period, from ₹6043 crore to ₹25,715 crore at CAGR 27%
- However, CSR in sports remains a small piece in the overall pie. Cumulative figures from 2014-15 to 2020-21 show that sports still accounts for just 1% of the overall spends; health and education are 21% and 31% respectively

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BBMP mops up ₹743 crore in four months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The one-time settlement (OTS) scheme, coupled with the revision of tax demand for undervalued properties under the self-assessment scheme (SAS), has helped the city's civic body mop up ₹743 crore more revenue this April-July, compared to the same period last year.

The overall property tax collection by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) from April 1 to July 31 was pegged at around ₹3,200 crore. During the same period in 2023, the civic body collected ₹2,457.3 crore.

The BBMP through the ambitious OTS scheme, a window through which 3,95,250 defaulters were given an opportunity to pay interest-free dues, managed to collect ₹217.5 crore. The data shared by the BBMP shows that 1,07,344 defaulters utilised the scheme, which was launched on February 23 and ended on July 31.

On the other hand, the BBMP issued revised tax demands for properties that it found to be undervalued under the SAS mechanism and mopped up additional tax of ₹163.13 crore from 6,723 properties, even as the civic body issued revised tax demands to 16,501 properties.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said the civic body had also ensured better compliance during the last four months.

He added now that the OTS scheme ended, the civic body will levy fines and interest for tax defaulters.

For commercial properties, the interest will be levied for the period from which taxes were unpaid and for residential properties interest will apply for those who have not paid tax beyond five years.

BBMP to consider extending OTS scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said many defaulters who approached the civic body to pay taxes in the last two days were unable to complete the transactions owing to server issues.

"Many defaulters are requesting to extend the OTS scheme to make their payments. We are mulling over sending a proposal to the government on extension of the scheme after studying the pros and cons of the same," he said.

Photos of Chief Minister, other leaders on textbooks draw the ire of parents

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar says it may have been printed by mistake and that this won't happen in the next batch of books

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Textbooks with the picture of Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The portraits of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K.Shivakumar, and Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, printed on the cover page of textbooks for the newly started pre-primary classes in anganwadis, have drawn the ire of many.

Educationists and parents have taken strong objection to printing the photographs of Ministers on textbooks, unlike the usual practice of just having the government emblem.

Following this, Ms. Hebbalkar said that the photographs of the State leaders may have been printed by mistake, without the knowledge of department officials.

"The department will start pre-primary classes in 18,000 more anganwadis in the coming days. This mistake will not happen in the books that will be printed henceforth," she said.

Following the State government's decision to start pre-primary classes in government schools of Kalyana Karnataka, anganwadi workers protested.

Following this, the government decided to start pre-primary classes in anganwadi centres, and in the first phase started these classes in 250 centres across Karnataka.

At these centres, the Department of Women and Child Development will supply children with books, bags, and other accessories. Towards this end, the department has got 26 lakh textbooks printed, which sport the photographs of the three leaders on its cover page.

Development educationist V.P. Niranjanaradhya said this would set a bad precedent.

"Workbooks or primers for students are not political leaflets of the ruling party. The Supreme Court has also ruled against spending the taxpayers' money to build personality cults of political leaders," he said.

"Textbooks and the education sector should not be politicised. Textbooks printed by the Department of School Education and Literacy through the Karnataka Textbooks Society only carry the State emblem. These books need to be withdrawn immediately," Shivaprasad, a parent, demanded.

'Solve our problems before allotting sites at Karanth layout'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Owners of sites in at least two layouts, which have been stuck in a legal tangle, are now pressing the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to devise a solution for them, before allotting sites at the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout located in north Bengaluru.

The BDA is currently preparing to allot sites at the layout which has 34,000 plots and 4,500 corner sites. This is the second largest layout after the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout.

Over 1,000 site owners of the Banashankari 6th Stage Layout, formed in 2001, are left in the lurch, as they are unable to build houses owing to a tussle between the Forest Department and the BDA.

The Forest Department has fenced a portion of the layout which has 60 to 70 sites, after it found out that the BDA encroached upon the Turahalli forest land.

The department is also claiming that Block 6 of the layout was developed on the buffer zone of the forest land. There are about 1,150 sites in this block that are now stuck in legal tangles.

T.S. Mahesha, president of Banashankari 6th Stage Residents' Welfare Association, told *The Hindu*: "Now the BDA is ready to allocate sites at the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout ignoring the plight of owners in our layout. We received sites in 2001, but owing to the fight between the BDA and the Forest Department we are not able to build houses on our sites".

He further said that a lack of coordination between the two departments had made finding an amicable solution a herculean task. "The BDA should first resolve the problem in its existing layouts before going ahead with new site allotment," he said.

The Banashankari 6th Stage Layout was formed in 2001.

> We received sites in 2001, but owing to the fight between the BDA and the Forest Department we are not able to build houses on our sites.
>
> **T.S. MAHESHA,**
> President of Banashankari 6th Stage Residents' Welfare Association

Meanwhile, many site allottees in Arkavathy Layout have not been given sites owing to a shortage of land, as several parcels of land notified for the layout were denotified. These allottees were to be given alternative sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. However, not all were given such alternative sites and they are now demanding alternative sites in the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout.

S. Suresh Kumar, Rajajinagar MLA, has written to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar raising these issues. He also urged Mr. Shivakumar to prioritise the problems of these site owners before commencing new allotments.

Namma Metro's TBM Tunga sets new record by tunnelling 308 m

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro's Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Tunga has set a new record. In July, Tunga tunnelled 308 metres, surpassing the previous record of 273 metres set by TBM Urja in May 2022, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

According to BMRCL, "In July 2024, BMRCL achieved its maximum tunnelling to date. TBM Tunga completed 308 metres of tunnelling between K.G. Halli and the Nagawara retrieval shaft. This surpasses the previous record of 273 metres set by TBM Urja between Cantonment and Pottery Town in May 2022."

Tunga commenced its final drive from K.G. Halli to Nagawara on February 2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BMRCL has deployed nine TBMs for the construction of Namma Metro lines across Bengaluru. Seven of these machines – Urja, Varada, Avni, Lavi, Vindhya, Vamika, and Rudra – have successfully completed their tasks.

The eighth TBM, Tunga, commenced its final drive from K.G. Halli to Nagawara, covering 935 metres, this February 2 for the Pink Line.

The ninth TBM, Bhadra, is currently working on its final assignment, a 939-metre northbound tunnel from K.G. Halli to Nagawara.

Officials anticipate that Tunga will surface at Nagawara, the terminal station of the Pink Line, on October 30.

Tunga has already tunnelled 469 metres of the total 938-metre target.

Officials expect the Pink Line to open in 2025. Progress on this stretch has experienced considerable delays owing to various factors, including tender cancellations owing to high bids, changes in alignment before final approval, challenges with land acquisition, and other obstacles.

Officials now expect that the entire stretch may be completed and opened in 2025.

Competitive exams with less than 20K candidates to be online

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to make all competitive examinations with less than 20,000 candidates online.

The decision was taken at a board meeting of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Thursday, headed by M.C. Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education, and Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister of Medical Education. The objective is to bring in more transparency in examinations conducted by the KEA, said Dr. Sudhakar.

The meeting gave its approval for adopting Artificial Intelligence technology for webcasting, collecting handprints and biometrics, and using facial recognition technology to verify candidates in all competitive examinations conducted for the recruitment of vacant posts in various departments along with the CET.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, AUG. 02	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:46
RISE 03:55	SET 17:19
SATURDAY, AUG. 03	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:46
RISE 04:52	SET 18:09
SUNDAY, AUG. 04	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 05:48	SET 18:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	27	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Chaces of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Day will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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janhita Help Line: 080-23108108
District: Haveri State: Karnataka
REF No: CMC/CIVIL/CR-/2024-25/973 Date: 30-07-2024

TENDER NOTICE

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Haveri invites tender Under SBM-2.0 Scheme of Rs.450.00 Lakhs "Construction of STP and Wetwell to treat sewage water coming from police accommodation houses and Kerimattihalli village to Heggeri lake in Haveri city, undertaken in used water management unit of Haveri Municipal Swachh Bharat Mission-2.0.". in the KPPP portal, Interested Contractors can refer and participate in this website kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for further clarifications visit CMC Office Haveri.

Sd/- Commissione
DIPR/Haveri/183/2024-25/DeshpandePublicity CMC Haveri

Buildings with 250-kW load need to have a minimum of two EV charging points

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Buildings or complexes whose requisitioned load is 250 kilowatts (kW) or more and whose built-up area is more than 5,000 sqm can have no less than two electric vehicle charging points, according to a new clause in the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for EV charging stations in commercial and residential buildings, complexes and multi-storey buildings in metropolitan and urban areas. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) rolled out the SOPs on July 30.

The SOPs come after several resident welfare associations (RWA), owners of multi-storey buildings and other consumers repeatedly approached the commission about the practical problems that they face while installing EV charging stations and obtaining EV charging connections from electricity supply companies (escoms).

KERC has issued guidelines for EV charging stations in apartments, multi-storey buildings and complexes. FILE PHOTO

"The RWAs, which have hundreds of houses and other complexes, did not have clear guidelines for installations of multiple EV charging stations and the metering and wiring aspects of it. Hence, the KERC has laid out these guidelines," said a senior official from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom).

According to the SOPs, consumers/owners/associations who would like to install additional EV charging stations in the spaces which are specifically identified for those installations under the new clause would have to obtain permission from the distribution licensee which can also be the escom. If they wish to install the charging stations in unidentified common areas, then they would have to get permission from the distributor to extend the wiring/cabling from the metering panel to the charging stations while complying with electrical safety regulations.

The guidelines also state that individual consumers who are allotted specific parking spaces in apartment complexes or multi-storey buildings and would like to install EV charging points are allowed to do so with their existing sanctioned loads. If necessary, they can also enhance their sanctioned load or choose a new connection under the EV charging tariff category.

"If there is no designated parking space, in such cases, they have to use EV charging stations/points in the identified common areas within the premises," the KERC order says.

The KERC has directed distribution licensees or escoms to put up their own guidelines based on these guidelines for the installation of EV charging stations soon.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby notified that my client Nathala David Solomon Raju S/o N Manikya Rao # 6/57, 1st cross Hennur Main Road, Lingarajapuram, Vinay Nursing Home, St. Thomas Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore 560084. (M) 9243410555. Is absolute owner of All the piece and parcel of Industrially Converted Land bearing Sy no. No 144 Gowribidinur Taluk, Thondibhavi Hobli, Kallanayakanahalli Village, Chikkaballapura Extent 1 Acre & 39 Guntas. And My client has lost below mentioned documents

1. Will, Documents No. 00110/2011-12 Book No.03, CD No. GNRD47, dated on 15/03/2012 executed by Late T V Govindaraju in the office of senior Sub Registrar, Ganganagar Bangalore. **2.** GPA/ POA, Documents No.420/2016-17, Book No.4, CD No. GNRD127, dated 17/03/2017, executed between T G Santhosh and T G Srinivas Govindaraju in the office of senior Sub Registrar, Ganganagar Bangalore. **3.** Discharge deed - Documents No. 05393/2015-16, Book No.1, CD No. GBDD117 Dated - 15/12/2015, executed between DCB Bank Ltd and T G Shakunthala in the senior sub registrar Gowribidinur Chikkaballapur.

My client has lodged a Police Complaint Banaswadi police station bearing Complaint No.1172495/2024 and Any person finds the original or has any objection may lodge their objections or hand over the original with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence by registered post within 7days from the date of this publication and objections and /or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

Place: Bangalore Date: 01.08.2024
A.S Associates, Advocate
No.001,1st Floor, JPC Paramount Opp to Shabari Residency H.Siddaiah Road, Bangalore-02 **9739004777**

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Bid No. E-40/2024-25 Date: 25.07.2024

E-TENDERS

E-Tenders are invited for & behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence-**S. No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S.N. 01:** 05245084B, (13.08.24), Self Brake ERS, 01 No. **S.N. 02**. 05245065B, (13.08.24), Spare Parts for Voltas, 01 Set. **S.N. 03**.05241145, (13.08.24), Electrode Size 6.3x450 MM, PL. No76011434, 500 Nos. **S.N. 04**. 05241144, (13.08.24), Metal ARC Welding, PL No 76011410, 7000 Nos. **S.N. 05.** 05235291A, (16.08.24), Aluminium Oxide, 150 Nos. **S.N. 06.** 05245008C, (16.08.24), Heaing Element, 20 Nos. **S.N. 07.** 05241146, (16.08.24), Mild Steel Plates, PL. No 90402649, 05 MT. **S.N. 08.** 05241103. (16.08.24), Lead Wire Holder. PL No 15610895, 207 Nos. **S.N. 09.** 05241063, (16.08.24), (i) Piston Holder, PL. No 15610196, 23 Nos. (ii) Hook and Calmp, PL No 15610238, 03 Nos. (iii) Bracker Lifter, PL No 15610240, 04 Nos. (iv) Timing Gauge, PL No 15610263, 44 Nos. (v) Holding Fix, PL No 15610317, 02 Nos. **S.N. 10.** 05231252, (19.08.24), Battery Package, PL No 76901890, 164 Nos. **S.N. 11.** 05245113A, (19.08.24), 50 Degree Profile Miling Cutter, 02 Set. **S.N. 12.** 05245137, (20.08.24), Multi V Opening die, 01 No. **S.N. 13.** 05245138. (20.08.24), End Mill Cutter Kit DIA 20 MM, 02 Set. **S.N. 14.** 10231330/A, (27.08.2024), Water Pump Repair Kit Part No.-16070124, 1526 Nos. **S.N. 15.** 06241127, (20.08.2024), Developmental Tender for Starter Motor, Part No. 18090011, 30 Nos. **S.N. 16.** 06241071, (21.08.2024), Connector Plug, Part No. 18360105, 04 Nos. **S.N. 17.** 06241036A, (20.08.2024), Terminal Lug, Part No. 18340465, 60 Nos., Part No. 18340430, 14 Nos., Part No. 18340519, 11 Nos., Part No. 18340209, 14 Nos. Part No. 18341068, 29 Nos. **S.N. 18.** 05241034A, (26.08.2024), Plug CPC 23-22M, Part No. 18360221, 51 Nos. **S.N. 19.** 07245297A, (22.08.2024) Anti Carb Paste For Deep Carburizing, 30 Kgs. **S.N. 20.** 07245288, (19.08.2024), Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Network Video Recorder (NVR), 2.00 Nos. **S.N. 21.** 03241102 (21.08.24), Rubber Gasket, P.L. NO. 29258406, 29258418 4936 Nos. & 617 Nos. All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged. The details of above Tenders are available on website **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in CORRIGENDUM, S.N. 22.** 04241018A, **Bid No.:** E-26/2024-25, **Rev. :** 01, **Existing due Date :** 25.07.2024, **Revise due Date :** 12.08.2024 **S.N. 23.** 04241032, **Bid No. :** E-21/2024-25, **Rev.:**01, **Existing due Date :** 31.07.2024, **Revise due Date :** 07.08.2024 **S.N. 24.** 06241795A, **Bid No. :** E-12/2024-25, **Rev.:**01, **Existing due Date:** 06.08.2024 **Revise due Date :** 14.11.2024 **S.N. 25.** 06241746, **Bid No.:**E-28/2024-25, **Rev.:** 01, **Existing due Date:** 29.07.2024 **Revise due Date:** 18.11.2024 **S.N. 26.** 06241865, **Bid No.:** E-28/2024-25, **Rev. :** 01, **Existing Due Date:** 06.08.2024 **Revise due Date:** 25.11.2024 **S.N. 27.** 06231074, **Bid No. :** E-34/2024-25, **Rev.:**01 **Existing due Date :** 22.10.2024 **Revise due Date :**12.08.2024.

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Controlling gestational diabetes critical to mother, baby's future

GDM is glucose intolerance that develops or is first diagnosed during pregnancy. It has short-term and long-term implications for maternal and foetal health. It increases the risk of type 2 diabetes in women later in life. Children face consequences such as obesity, insulin resistance, and diabetes

V. Seshiah

The 18th Annual Conference of the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India 2024 (DIPSI), which was held in March in New Delhi, marked a significant milestone in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) with the unveiling of the Delhi Declaration. This pioneering document provides a futuristic perspective on the primordial prevention strategy for diabetes, especially gestational diabetes (GDM), which has amplified the global threat of NCDs.

GDM was originally described as any form of glucose intolerance that develops or is first diagnosed during pregnancy. This condition is an antepartum complication that has short-term and long-term implications for maternal and foetal health. GDM increases the risk of type 2 diabetes in women later in life. At the same time, their children face consequences such as obesity, insulin resistance, and type 2 diabetes due to likely epigenetic modifications caused by exposure to high glucose concentrations in utero. Hence, identifying GDM at the right time and proper management are pivotal in reducing these risks.

Due to the increased attention paid to GDM, the Delhi Declaration encourages using the single test procedure formulated by DIPSI and approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. This low-cost and effective strategy is crucial to identifying glucose intolerance in pregnancy to prevent the progression of NCDs.

The Delhi Declaration has urged clinicians, researchers, diabetologists, obstetricians, and public health specialists to achieve set metabolic targets at the beginning of pregnancy for improved maternal and fetal health. GETTY IMAGES

Foetal programming

One of the key issues emphasised in the Delhi Declaration is foetal programming. This refers to alterations in the structure, anatomy, and biochemical activities due to injurious influences or stress during specific developmental phases of fetal growth. One such adverse stimulus is hyperglycemia during pregnancy, which increases the risk of the fetus developing NCDs when it grows up, a concept known as the "Foetal Origin of Adult Diseases."

The studies show that women should be screened for glucose intolerance at eight weeks of pregnancy. Foetal beta cells begin to secrete insulin at the gestational age of 11 weeks of pregnancy. Maternal 2-hour postprandial blood glucose (PPBG) level of 110 mg/dL by the 10th week of pregnancy predicts GDM. This early glucose intolerance, called Early Gestational Glucose Intolerance (EGGI), requires treatment in order to keep blood glucose levels below 110 mg/dl at 10 weeks to avoid foetal hyperinsulinemia (higher than normal levels of insulin in the blood) and, subsequently, GDM.

A National Institutes of Health, US, and WHO analysis states that a 2 hour post prandial blood sugar of 110 mg/dl at the 10th week predicts early GDM. This will enable the launch of appropriate lifestyle changes and medical interventions even before GDM is actually established. The 2013 WHO guideline does not include A1c as a means of diagnosing diabetes in a pregnant woman and for monitoring. Screening between the 8th and 10th weeks enables healthcare providers to keep maternal glucose levels below 110 mg/dl. Taking early action can greatly change the course of NCD development.

The Delhi Declaration states that all pregnant women with PPBG ≥110 mg/dl should be put on medical nutrition therapy and begin taking metformin 250 mg twice a day until delivery. These interventions aim to ensure that glycemic levels remain between 99 ± 10 mg/dl during the pregnancy. Metformin is still relatively safe at this stage because the advantages of better glycemic control outweigh the potential hazards.

A pilot study carried out in this regard has revealed some promising findings. Group A included 82 antenatal women with PPBG < 110 mg/dl at eight weeks and no intervention; only one woman developed GDM in the third trimester because she was bearing multiple foetuses. On the other hand, in Group B, which had 70 antenatal women with PPBG of 110mg/dl at eight weeks on MNT plus metformin, only one woman had GDM resulting from discontinuation of the intervention. These outcomes provide proof that the primordial prevention of diabetes is possible and feasible.

> The ultimate idea is to address the problem head-on and create a generation free of diabetes through primordial prevention

The Delhi Declaration has urged clinicians, researchers, diabetologists, obstetricians, and public health specialists to achieve set metabolic targets at the beginning of pregnancy for improved maternal and fetal health. The pledge involves the following principles:

- using advocacy to raise awareness of screening for PPBS at eight weeks of gestation,
- working with healthcare professionals and families to ensure euglycemia and
- ensure sound policies and programmes for the education, screening, and management of pregnant women.

Freedom from diabetes

The Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India 2024 conference has also set a clear agenda for the future: to launch social media advocacy campaigns, improve postpartum compliance, and reduce discrimination against pregnant women with diabetes. The ultimate idea is to address the problem head-on and create a generation free of diabetes through primordial prevention.

By adhering to these guidelines, the Delhi Declaration seeks to pave the way for healthier futures for the mom and her child.

The ideology of early detection and intervention is not only medically sound but also a public health call that holds out the prospect of dousing the epidemic of diabetes and other NCDs.

To sum up, we need to bear the following points as a mantra in the treatment of pregnant women: Prediction of GDM should be done on the basis of a 2hr PPBS reading of >110 mg/dl at the 10th week. Preventive action has to be taken so that maternal PPBS remains under the 110 mg/dl blood sugar mark throughout the pregnancy. The mother should be on Maternal Nutrition Therapy and oral Metformin for the entire pregnancy. Follow-up for women who have recorded GDM is essential after delivery.

With these simple, practical guidelines and an understanding of what the Delhi Declaration offers, we now have the means and the know-how to create a real and lasting improvement in the health of future generations.

The focus on early identification and treatment is not only a requirement of modern medicine but also a social mandate. Together, we can pave the way for a healthier, diabetes-free generation in the future. The womb is more important than the home, in some senses. It all starts in utero. Hence, for a diabetes free generation we should concentrate on the development of offspring.

(Dr. V. Seshiah is an eminent Diabetologist practicing in Chennai and is the founder and patron of the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India. *vseshiah@gmail.com*)

The Delhi Declaration which provides a futuristic perspective on a prevention strategy for diabetes, especially gestational diabetes, was released by Union Minister Jitendra Singh in March. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Children take part in a walk to spread awareness on obesity in Vijaywada. FILE PHOTO

'Proper diet key to managing childhood obesity, diabetes'

Zubeda Hamid

Last week, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi stated in the Lok Sabha that 17% of children in the age group of 0-5 years in India are underweight (low weight for age), 36% are stunted (low height for age), and 6% are wasted (low weight for height) – all key indicators of malnutrition.

Malnutrition, as defined by the WHO, refers to deficiencies or excesses in nutrient intake, an imbalance of essential nutrients, or impaired nutrient utilisation. The double burden of malnutrition consists of both undernutrition, overweight, and obesity, as well as diet-related noncommunicable diseases, the WHO says.

India has struggled with malnutrition for decades – 56.4% of the total disease burden is attributed to unhealthy diets.

The Dietary Guidelines for India, developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad, said a large proportion of children suffered impaired nutritional status while concurrently battling the rising prevalence of overweight, obesity, and pre-diabetic symptoms, creating a dual burden of malnutrition where both undernutrition and overweight and obesity coexist.

How do we combat the diabesity (obesity and type 2 diabetes) pandemic? Wriritng in *The Lancet* Chittaranjan S. Yajnik, director, diabetes unit, KEM Hospital, Pune, says: "The hope of shooing away the diabesity pandemic by controlling the lifestyle of adults and using biologics is tantamount to closing the door after the horse has bolted. Only promoting adolescent and female health in the reproductive years will help primordial and primary prevention in future generations."

India has struggled with malnutrition for decades – 56.4% of the total disease burden is attributed to unhealthy diets

Indians, says Nihal Thomas, senior professor, department of endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism, Christian Medical College, Vellore start with a disadvantage: they already have a nutritional backlog of 150 odd years. Over a period of time, malnourishment leads to the thrifty phenotype, where more adipose tissue and fat are stored, even when fewer calories are consumed, at the cost of lean body muscle, he explains. This leads to changes in the pancreas and liver, and, as a result, when exposed to times of plenty, Indians put on weight easily, making them more susceptible to insulin resistance and therefore diabetes.

In addition, says independent development economist and food researcher Dipa Sinha, new challenges to food security compound the already existing burden of large deficits in the nutritional levels of people. These deficits, she says, are not just in terms of the amount of food available, but the right kind of food: a diverse diet, sufficient proteins, and micronutrients.

"Take price volatility with food – it is linked to multiple factors such as climate crises, which India is seeing more of with droughts and unseasonal rain, as well as fluctuations in global prices. This makes availability and access to a nutritious diet even more difficult. We know that pregnancy and the first two years of life are very important. But when prices go up, families reduce the number of expensive food items they buy, and the variety of their diet decreases. And almost always, if there isn't enough , the woman will be the one who gets the least."

(zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The evolutionary edge to human survival

Anjali Srivastava

QUESTION 1
The ability to metabolize alcohol effectively is an evolutionary adaptation found in populations with a long history of agriculture and fermentation. Which enzyme is responsible for this adaptation?

QUESTION 2
_____ is a structural adaptation in the human foot that provides leverage and shock absorption during walking and running, distinguishing us from other primates.

QUESTION 3
Which gene, known to affect skin pigmentation, underwent mutation around 20,000 to 50,000 years ago, allowing humans in Europe to have lighter skin?

QUESTION 4
Humans have evolved to have specific type of sweat gland that helps with thermoregulation by secreting water and salts. What is the name of this gland?

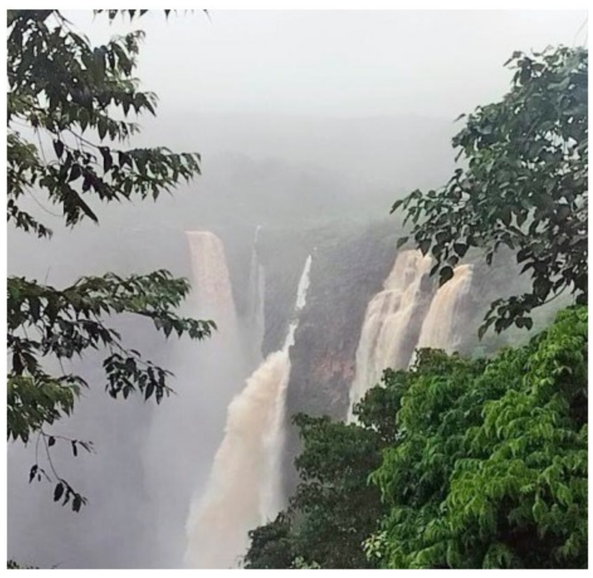
QUESTION 5
The ability to store large amounts of fat in the body as a survival mechanism in times of food scarcity is an adaptation known as what?

Visual question: Identify this evolutionary adaptation, highlighted in red, in the human hand which includes a muscle absent in some people and considered vestigial but was once used for climbing and grasping in our primate ancestors.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Jog in full glory, Hampi monuments flooded as rains continue in State

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will tour flood-affected regions of Kodagu today



The Jog Falls in Sagar taluk at its best following the release of water from the Linganamakki dam on Thursday. SATHISH G.T.

Monuments at the World Heritage Site of Hampi got flooded after the discharge from Tungabhadra reservoir increased to around 1.8 lakh cusecs on Thursday. SRIDHAR KAVALI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The past three days have seen a steady decrease in the quantum of rains in Kodagu providing relief to locals but concerns of flash floods and landslips remain. The cumulative rainfall in Kodagu from June 1 till August 1 was 1,761 mm, which is 24% above normal.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will tour the flood-affected regions of Kodagu on Friday. He will inspect the landslip at Srimangala and visit Kedamalluru in Virajpet taluk, Siddapura, and a few other places affected.

In coastal region

Among coastal districts, very heavy rainfall in some areas on the foothills of the Western Ghats in Udupi district triggered floods throwing life out of gear in the southern parts of the district.

In Dakshina Kannada, a woman was killed in a house collapse as moderate to heavy rains lashed the district since Wednesday night. Rains caused havoc in Venoor and Hosangady areas on the foothills of the Western Ghats in Belthangady taluk. Water from Hosangady and Venoor rivers, which are the tributaries of the Phalguni, entered over 20 houses in Hosangady, Badakodi, and Maroor villages.

In Malnad region, after the crest gates of the Linganamakki dam were opened to release excess water on Thursday, the famous Jog Falls, the second highest plunge waterfall in India, gained vigour. Authorities released 10,000 cusecs of water following heavy rains. Hundreds of people could be seen enjoying the majestic view of the falls where the Shravati plunges from a height of 830 feet.

In north Karnataka, a few monuments at the World Heritage Site of Hampi in Vijayanagara district were flooded on Thursday evening, as the discharge from the Tungabhadra reservoir was increased to nearly 1.8 lakh cusecs.

Purandara Mantapa, the bathing spot Chakrateertha, the canal of the Vijayanagara Empire and Sugriva's cave were among the monuments that were heavily flooded.

Wayanad landslide: ISRO releases before and after satellite images

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) has released high-resolution images taken by satellites which reveal the extensive damage caused by the landslide in Wayanad district in Kerala.

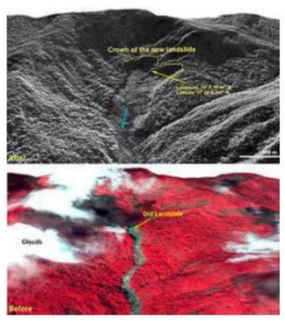
NRSC has released the before and after images of Chooralmala in Wayanad district. The images show that about 86,000 square metres of land had slipped out of place.

While the pre-event images were captured by the Cartosat 3 satellite on May 22, 2023, the post-event images were captured by the RISAT satellite a day after the landslide on July 31.

According to the images released by NRSC, there is evidence of an earlier landslip in the same location.

Interpreting the details of the image, NSRC states that a major flow of debris was triggered by heavy rainfall in and around Chooralmala.

Very high resolution RISAT SAR images of July 31 show the entire extent of the debris flow from crown to end of the run-out zone. The approximate length of the flow is 8 km. The crown zone is a reactivation of an older landslide.



Before and after images of Chooralmala in Wayanad district of Kerala. ISRO

10 people return to Chamarajanagar

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Ten persons from Chamarajnagar who had taken shelter at relief camps in landslide-hit Meppadi in Kerala have returned to their native villages in the district. The district administration had arranged for their return to their respective villages in a vehicle from Kerala.

All 10 of them - from Kodahalli village in Gundlupet taluk and Chamarajanagar taluk - had taken shelter at St. Joseph's School at Meppadi where a relief camp had been established.

Radha of Malavalli, who was residing in landslide-hit Wayanad, also returned to Dadadahalli in Malavalli taluk, according to the district administration.

From Page One

MUDA 'scam': Governor told to withdraw notice to Siddaramaiah

"What was the haste in issuing the show-cause notice without reading the contents? There is a case for seeking report but no case for sanctioning prosecution," he argued.

He asked how sanction for prosecution could be sought without a report from the commission of inquiry, investigation, or any court order.

Issue discussed

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the Council of Ministers had discussed the issue threadbare, going into judgements in various courts, Constitutional provisions, decisions of the courts on the Governors' conduct.

"After taking into consideration all this, the Cabinet decided to advise the Governor to withdraw the July 26 notice issued to the Chief Minister and reject the application for sanction."

When asked if the government was confident of Governor receiving the advice, Mr. Shivakumar said: "The Governor is the Constitutional head and it is his duty to protect the Constitution. We have taken his advice seriously and set up a commission of inquiry. We are confident that Governor is sensible and will make a calm and calculated move on this issue. He is a wise man and we hope he will abide by the advice of the Council of Ministers."

On whether the Cabinet would pass a resolution against the Governor, he said: "That would be the last resort." He refused to divulge the future course of action.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 2, Friday), the following articles are available:

- Here's why Union Budget 2024 promised policy on pumped storage **bit.ly/pumpedstoragexp**
- Need to control gestational diabetes: **bit.ly/controllingdiabetes**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

High Court reserves order on SIT's plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday reserved its order on a petition by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) seeking cancellation of bail granted by a special court to former Minister H.D. Revanna in a case of alleged abduction of a former maid to prevent her from giving statement against his son, Prajwal Revanna, who is accused of raping her.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who heard the arguments on behalf of the SIT and Mr. Revanna, reserved his order.

The SIT had sought cancellation of the bail granted by the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against MPs and MLAs on May 13.

While the SIT contended that the special court had erred in granting bail by wrongly interpreting Section 364A (kidnapping for ransom, etc.) and not appreciating the materials available against the accused persons, Mr. Revanna's advocates justified the grant of bail by the special court while contending that there was no material to invoke Section 364A against him.

Chargesheet filed against Revanna and Bhavani

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A SIT probing the alleged sex crimes of Prajwal Revanna, former MP, on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against his parents – H.D. Revanna and Bhavani Revanna – apart from seven others, in connection with an abduction case in which Mr. Revanna was arrested.

The chargesheet listed Satish Babu, Manu, Sujay, Madhu, and Hosur Keerthi, all arrested in the case, and also listed Ajith, driver of Ms. Revanna, and Sharath, a relative of Ms. Revanna, as absconding accused.

The accused have been charged under Sections 364A (kidnapping for ransom, etc), 365 (Kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) and 120 (B) of criminal conspiracy of the IPC.

One of the alleged victims of Prajwal went missing on April 29 and was eventually rescued by the SIT on May 4. She lodged a complaint based on which the SIT registered a rape case against Prajwal.

Following his anticipatory bail plea being rejected by the court, the SIT arrested Mr. Revanna on May 4. Later, he was granted bail. His wife was also summoned in the case, but was granted anticipatory bail.

Migrant labourers evicted, termed 'illegal Bangladeshi immigrants'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 70 families of migrant labourers living in rented houses at S. Bingipura in Bannerghatta were displaced, as the Bannerghatta police allegedly demolished some of their houses and disconnected the power line as part of an eviction drive on Tuesday.

They were allegedly branded illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even as they claimed they were from West Bengal.

As many as 400 daily wage labourers, mostly working in waste segregation, hailing from West Bengal, are now running from pillar to post with their grievances. They have now filed a complaint with the State police chief.

The sheds that were demolished on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the complaint filed on Thursday, the victims said that the jurisdictional Bannerghatta police came to their colony with earthmovers and demolished six houses alleging that they were illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The police also disconnected the power supply to the houses before demolishing them.

The complaint also alleged that the police threatened them with dire consequences if they protested.

"We have all the required documents to prove that we are from West Bengal and tried to reason with the police. But they were in no mood to listen and wanted to demolish the houses in a jiffy", a resident said.

He said they had paid the rent for the land and built their sheds, which were now destroyed. "The demolition drive is illegal and violates several High Court and Supreme Court rulings," said R. Kaleemulla, city-based activist and member of Swaraj Abhiyan.

The complaint also stated that the demolition drive was launched following a news report by a Kannada news channel accusing the residents of being illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The residents said they had also brought the issue to the notice of the West Bengal government.

The group demanded strict action against the errant police officials who carried out the drive along with a news channel which recorded the incident and aired the wrong news inciting police action.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Science & Technology
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU
INDIA NANO
AUGUST 1st-3rd 2024
THE LALIT, BENGALURU
Nanotechnology for Sustainability
Climate, Energy & Healthcare
THEME
Shri N. S. Boseraju, Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, releasing the event brochure along with other dignitaries at the Curtain Raiser.
Inauguration By
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
In the August Presence of
Prof. C.N.R. Rao, FRS
Honorary Chairman, VGNT, Govt. of Karnataka;
National Research Professor & Linus Pauling Research Professor, Honorary President, JNCASR, Bengaluru
Distinguished Guests of Honour
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
Shri N. S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation and Science &Technology, Govt. of Karnataka
Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
Executive Chairperson, Biocon Ltd;
Chairperson, VGBt, GoK
Presided by
Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru
We look forward to your gracious presence
Prof. Navakanta Bhat
Chair, Vision Group on Nanotechnology, GoK,
Dean, Division of Interdisciplinary Sciences,
Professor, CeNSE, IISc, Bengaluru
Dr. Ekroop Caur, IAS
Secretary to Government
Dept. of Electronics, Information Technology,
Biotechnology and Science & Technology, GoK
Prof. P. S. Anil Kumar
Chair, CEC - Bengaluru INDIA NANO 2024
Dean, Administration & Finance,
Professor, Dept. of Physics, IISc, Bengaluru
Pavan Kumar Malapati, IAS
Director, Dept. of Science & Technology,
Managing Director, Karnataka Science and Technology
Promotion Society (KSTePS), GoK
INAUGURATION
Date: Friday, 02nd August, 2024 Time: 10:00 AM
Venue: Kalinga 1, The Lalit, Bengaluru
ATTEND CONFERENCE
VISIT EXPO
www.bengaluruindianano.in
Organisers
KSTePS
JNCASR

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Indians who died while working in Russian armed forces

8 The government has received requests for the facilitation of early discharge of some Indian nationals recruited into the Russian armed forces in unclear circumstances, Minister of State for External Affairs informed Parliament. PTI

The Indian tourists who visited Nepal in July by air

21,500 Indians formed the largest chunk of tourists coming by air to Nepal. Nepal received a total of 64,599 foreign tourists. PTI

Time taken by Pan Zhanle to finish 100m free-style in Paris

46.4 in seconds. Pan Zhanle of China broke his own world record by winning the men's 100-metre freestyle on Wednesday night. This is China's first swimming gold medal. AP

The Goods and Services Tax collection in the month of July

1.82 in ₹ trillion. This is a rise of 10.3% from the same period last year, the government said. The government had collected 1.65 trillion rupees as GST in the same month last year. REUTERS

Average monsoon rainfall recorded in India since June 1

453.8 in mm. India is predicted to record above-normal rainfall in August and September, the IMD said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The relevance of pumped storage projects

Why is renewable power generation subject to variations and weather changes? How do power managers decide which energy source to use? Where are some of the pumped storage projects of India situated? How do the reservoirs in Kadamparai, Tamil Nadu operate?

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

The Union Budget for 2024-25 promised that "a policy for promoting pumped storage projects will be brought out for electricity storage and facilitating smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy with its variable and intermittent nature."

Why is pumped storage important?

India has planned to create an ambitious 500GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030. In around two years, from 2021 to 2023, it created some 23GW of non-fossil generation capacity. Out of the total 10GW added in eight months in 2023-24, 7.5GW were from wind and solar energy, pointing to how renewables will account for most of the new power generation that will be added in India. The share of actual renewable power generation will increase in times to come, but this power will necessarily vary and will be "infirm".

Indian policies have laid down that all the power that renewable sources generate should be used and their curtailment should be last priority. State-of-the-art forecasting techniques have helped to predict more accurately how much renewable power generation might vary in the course of a day. This has helped grid operators plan in advance how to increase or decrease power generation from other sources to provide steady power to the consumer. For example, hydro power generation can be quickly ramped up or down in a matter of seconds. However, coal and nuclear energy need hours of notice.

When the world's attention turned to renewables and the problem of variable power generation, many solutions were proposed for storing energy and releasing it when wind and solar power generation are down. Until then, no electricity generated was stored at a large scale.

Power centre: The Kadamparai Cavern Power House.

Some of the proposed energy storage methods include scaling up batteries and pumping in compressed air into large caverns and then drawing on them to generate power when required. However, much of the energy storage adopted across the world today is pumped storage that uses water. These are like super large batteries but natural and use water.

Does India have pumped storage?

India has 3.3GW of pumped storage. Main ones are in Nagarjunasagar, Kadana, Kadamparai, Panchet and Bhira. China leads the world with 50GW of pumped storage supporting 1,300GW of wind and solar energy. India would need to ramp up its pumped storage capacity by several times if it wants to meet its renewable power generation targets.

Pumped storage is of two types: on river and off river. On-river is like any hydroelectric project supplied by a river. Off-river projects are those that have two reservoirs at two different levels to which the water can be pumped up or let down under gravity in a closed loop. When there is surplus power, water is pumped up from the lower reservoir to the upper, and when power is needed the water can flow down to turn the turbines and generate power. One such project is at Kadamparai, Tamil Nadu.

How does pumped storage at Kadamparai operate?

In Tamil Nadu, at noon on a typical day in July, wind and solar can generate half of all power. This is among the highest in the country. On a summer day, solar plants in Tamil Nadu currently produce some 5,000MW at noon. But that power dwindles and drops to zero at sunset. Wind also has its own vagaries. Tamil Nadu has peaks of around 17,000MW to 20,000MW on a daily basis. This year in July, maximum wind power generated reached 5,499MW and maximum solar reached 5,512MW. Wind and solar energy have must-run-status in the State which means whatever energy they produce must be taken.

The Kadamparai plant in Coimbatore district that came up some 37 years ago has four units, each 100 MW. The plant has a higher reservoir that is at a height of around 380m above a lower reservoir. Each unit has a turbine generator set producing power when the water flows from the upper reservoir to the lower. The same unit can function as a pump consuming power when it pumps water from the lower to the higher reservoir. Power managers plan in advance for the next day on how much and when to operate each power plant in the State based on factors such as demand expected and forecast of wind and sunshine conditions. Typically, around noon, there is a power surplus coming from solar energy. That power is used to pump up the water at Kadamparai. Each unit needs 20% more power to operate as a pump than what it can produce as a generator. But since it is solar energy, no fuel is being burned to produce the required power.

When the Kadamparai plant is operating as a pump to store energy, it would need about an hour and a half to switch to generating mode. When stopped, it would need about half hour to start and generate a full load. When solar generation stops and the evening peak load begins after 6pm, the Kadamparai plant becomes a generator. It can produce 400MW of full power for three to four hours and help support evening peak loads. Sometimes the plant is operated at less than full load late into the night depending on the conditions. The upper reservoir has around 1 TMC feet of water. Leakages are marginal and are often replenished by natural rainfall.

THE GIST

- India has planned to create an ambitious 500GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030. In around two years, from 2021 to 2023, it created some 23GW of non-fossil generation capacity.
- India has 3.3GW of pumped storage. Main ones are in Nagarjunasagar, Kadana, Kadamparai, Panchet and Bhira.
- Pumped storage is of two types: on river and off river. On-river is like any hydroelectric project supplied by a river. Off-river projects are those that have two reservoirs at two different levels to which the water can be pumped up or let down under gravity in a closed loop.

On election of the European Commission president

Why did Giorgia Meloni, Italy's far right Prime Minister, disapprove of the European Council's decision on Ursula von der Leyen's candidature? What are some of the challenges ahead for the European Union?

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

On July 18, the newly constituted European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union, elected Ursula von der Leyen, the EC's first female President, for a second term. Ms. Von der Leyen, of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP), won by a clear majority of 40 votes unlike the razor-thin nine vote margin she secured in 2019.

How is the EC President chosen?

The selection of the EC President entails a two-stage process in consonance with the results of the parliamentary polls. The candidate is initially proposed and elected by the European Council – comprising the leaders of the EU's 27 member countries – and subsequently put to a secret ballot in parliament. Conventionally, the Council's choice has been a straightforward affair, determined essentially by the steady dominance of top three of the bloc's eight political groups, namely the EPP, the centre-left Socialists & Democrats (S&D) and the liberal Renew group.

Yet the decision regarding Ms. Von der Leyen's candidature was not unanimous. Brothers of Italy, the party of Giorgia Meloni, Italy's far right Prime Minister, had bagged the maximum number of seats in the EU parliamentary polls. The European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), the far-right caucus Ms. Meloni heads, had for a short time managed to muster the numbers to be counted the third largest group in the legislature. Italy, moreover, is one of the EU's six founder members and the bloc's third largest economy. Given this formidable background, the Italian far-right caucus was straining every nerve to exert Rome's clout on the EU stage. While EU leaders and heads of the three main groups finalised Ms. Von der Leyen's candidature, Ms. Meloni took strong exception to her exclusion from the meeting. In the end, Ms. Meloni and the hard-right Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban disapproved the decision, leaving it to the remaining 25 leaders to back the Council's nominee.

What about the vote in parliament?

The ripples from Ms. Meloni's abstention in the Council were felt across the board, giving momentary pause for Ms. Von der Leyen's prospects for automatic reinstatement by the legislature. There were even murmurs of the Council calling for a possible second vote in case parliament rejected her appointment.

Eventually, Ms. Von der Leyen secured 401 votes, exactly the number of seats held by the parliament's three main political groups supporting her, and well over the halfway mark in the 720-strong house. It fell to the 53 MEPs s from the Green party to come to Ms. Von der Leyen's final rescue, backing for the first time a commission nominee. The revival of the landmark Green Deal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, in return for the party's critical support, remains to be seen. Ms. Meloni and the ECR are for now a much reduced force. A more potent threat facing EU centrists is the newly launched Eurosceptic and anti-immigrant Patriots for Europe group, which has overtaken the ECR and is now the third largest bloc in parliament.

What will be the challenges Ms. Von der Leyen will have to face?

The bloc's most powerful institution, the EC, speaks as a single voice on external affairs and proposes legislation covering areas that require collective action, sifting through competing claims arising from divergent national and ideological perspectives. The most complex exercise of them all is the formulation of the bloc's seven-year budget. Crucially, Ms. Von der Leyen has pledged to tie national disbursements from the EU budget to the observance of the rule of law and plans to impose conditions relating to the respect for fundamental rights for availing other funds. With far-right parties heading national governments or in coalition, democratic backsliding could be a matter of some concern in the coming years.

Ms. Von der Leyen's second term would be anything but smooth sailing, as she seeks to appease and accommodate particular political constituencies.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- On July 18, the newly constituted European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union, elected Ursula von der Leyen, the EC's first female President, for a second term.
- Yet the decision regarding Ms. Von der Leyen's candidature was not unanimous.
- The bloc's most powerful institution, the EC, speaks as a single voice on external affairs and proposes legislation covering areas that require collective action, sifting through competing claims arising from divergent national and ideological perspectives.

E-TENDER NOTICE

Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana,
Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association, Latur
e - Tender Notice No. 25/2024-25 (Latur)

The Superintending Engineer, PMGSY, MRRDA, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Region, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar invites the bids in electronic tendering system published on https://mahatenders.gov.in for Construction & Five Year maintenance of Roads Sanctioned Under R & D State Total Packages - 04 (Total Road works - 28) in Latur District.

Date of Sale & Submission starts from 02/08/2024 at 11.00 am respectively. Ends on 16/08/2024 at 17.00 pm. Respectively.

Further notification & Clarification will be published on website.

(Sd/-) (A.A.Khairadi) Executive Engineer (PMGSY), MRRDA, Latur

(Sd/-) (Vilas H. More) Superintending Engineer (PMGSY), MRRDA, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar

DGIPR/2024/2025/1468

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पत्रांक:– दिनांक–

ई–निविदा संख्या:–04/2024-25/RWD /EE/RANCHI

क्रम सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या /पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि / अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1	RWD/RANCHI/ 08/ 2024-25	हाकेदाग पंचायत में पीपरदाग से दुमकाटोली तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0–1.460 कि0मी0)	1,32,71,900.00	एक करोड़ बत्तीस लाख एकहत्तर हजार नौ सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह	प्रथम
2	RWD/RANCHI/ 09/ 2024-25	लुपुंग पंचायत के सुलुमजुड़ी से खपचाबेड़ा चौक तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0–2.000 कि0मी0)	1,97,72,100.00	एक करोड़ सन्तानबे लाख बहत्तर हजार एक सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह	प्रथम
3	RWD/RANCHI/ 10/ 2024-25	लोटा पंचायत के लोटा से जारागोड़ा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (ल0–1.200 कि0मी0)	1,34,56,200.00	एक करोड़ चौंतीस लाख छप्पन हजार दो सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह	प्रथम
4	RWD/RANCHI/ 11/ 2024-25	बंता हजाम पंचायत में बंता बुण्डू रोड से बुरूडीह तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0–2.160 कि0मी0)	2,29,60,100.00	दो करोड़ उन्तीस लाख साठ हजार एक सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह	प्रथम
5	RWD/RANCHI/ 12/ 2024-25	डोकाद पंचायत भवन से बुढ़ाडीह तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0– 1.800 कि0मी0)	1,67,44,700.00	एक करोड़ सरसठ लाख चौवालीस हजार सात सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह	प्रथम
6	RWD/RANCHI/ 13/ 2024-25	जोन्हा पंचायत अन्तर्गत पाड़ाटुंगरी से शरदाकोचा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0–1.550 कि0मी0)	2,42,10,700.00	दो करोड़ बेयालीस लाख दस हजार सात सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह	प्रथम

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:–**08.08.2024**
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:–**28.08.2024** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:–**30.08.2024** अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0651–2360137

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची

PR 331381 REO(24-25)#D

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **1.Sri.Harish.Babu.T.A S/o Sri.Ashwath Narayana Shetty & 2.Smt.Usha.H** to bring the notice of the general public that Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc No.911/1987-88 of Book-I, Volume-1728, Page-232 to 235, date.12.10.1987, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Doddaballapura, executed by **1) Sri.J.S.Umashankar s/o J.K. Shivakumar and 2) Krishnamurthy s/o Akkanarasaiah** in favour of **Sri.H.N.Basavaraju s/o H.S. Nanjundappa,** is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.23,** old Katha No.5391/V.S.5391/23, present CMC property No.3-5-539-29, property old No.5391/5391/VS-23, assessment No.DBP2017111099368, situated at **Doddaballapura Town, Previously Rojipura Ward No.4, now 3rd Division, near Kwality Bar, behind I.B, Bangalore Rural District,** measuring East to West **30** feet and North to South **40** feet or 9.14x12.20 meters and bounded on:

East by : Site No.22, West by : Site No.24, North by : Site No.45, South by : 20 feet Road.

H. Prahlada B.A.,L.L.B
Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Project Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017. **Phone No.: 0821-2544963**
Email: gmproj@cescmysore.org **Website:** cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in

No: GM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-4/2024-25/ 8957 **Date :** 31.07.2024

Short Term Tender Notification (KPP PORTAL ONLY)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tender from eligible bidders for the following;

Works details	Enquiry No.
Conversion of HT Overhead line to HT UG Cable and LT Overhead line to LT UG Cable around the temple atop Chamundi Hill and drawing alternate UG Cable line works.	CESC /Pr-4/ 2024-25/037

The works & tender details can be obtained through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.08.2024.** For clarification regarding KPP portal please contact help desk **+91-8046010000/ 8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-
General Manager (Projects)
CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/354/2024-25

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – **EE/RDSD/PALAMAU-06/2024-25**

1. **कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी** :–

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	पलामू जिला के प्रखण्ड सतबरवा अंतर्गत पंचायत बारी, ग्राम–राजडेरवा में गणपत चौधरी के घर के पास पुल निर्माण।	33646500.00	673000.00	10000.00	18 माह।
2	पलामू जिला के प्रखण्ड चैनपुर अन्तर्गत पंचायत–सलतुआ, सगरदीनवा में तहले नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	50015800.00	1000500.00	10000.00	24 माह।
3	पलामू जिला के प्रखण्ड मेदिनीनगर अन्तर्गत पंचायत लहलहे ग्राम नावाटोली में मलय नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	34605800.00	692500.00	10000.00	18 माह।
4	पलामू जिला के प्रखण्ड पांकी अन्तर्गत पंचायत–सकलदीपा में मुर्गीटांड़ से खपरमंडा पथ में खपरमंडा नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	27676100.00	554000.00	10000.00	18 माह।
5	पलामू जिला के प्रखण्ड पाटन के पंचायत पचकेड़िया के ग्राम भितियाही में जिंजोई नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	60572400.00	1211500.00	10000.00	24 माह।

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **05.08.2024**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक **05.08.2024** से दिनांक **17.08.2024** को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, पलामू।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **21.08.2024** अपराह्न 2:00 बजे।
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06562–355581 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पलामू

PR 331466 Rural Development(24-25)#D

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East),
17th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001

No: SADH/TENDER-01/CORRIGENDUM-3/2024-25 Date: 01.08.2024

CORRIGENDUM – 03

Subject: Corrigendum to Tender schedule: regarding

Ref.: Tender reference No. SADH(East)/TENDER/ PR/01/24-25 Dated 01.07.2024

With Reference to the above, the Scheduled dates of Tender invited by the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East), BBMP, Bangalore dated 01.07.2024 has been revised due to technical reason and the new schedule dates are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Sl.No. as per Tender Notification	Dates as published		Revised Dates
1	4, 8 & 13	Tender documents may be downloaded from	09.07.2024 4.00 PM	01.08.2024 4.00 PM
		Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document	29.07.2024 4.00 PM	08.08.2024 4.00 PM
		Pre-Bid Meeting	15.07.2024 4.00 PM	05.08.2024 4.30 PM
		Date of Opening of Tenders	30.07.2024 4.30 PM	09.08.2024 4.30 PM

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture East Zone

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" Survey No.8, (B.E.P Premises), Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar Ist Block, Bengaluru-560010. Tel: 080-22024000 Fax: 080-22024000. Website: www.krdcl.in
e-mail: mdkrdcl@gmail.com & cekrdcl@gmail.com

No: KRDCL/IFB/2024-25/02 Date: 01-08-2024

INVITATION FOR BIDS (Only through KPP portal)

The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL] proposes to take up the Construction of Bus Shelters on item rate tender basis on two cover tender procedure. Name of the Work: **"Construction of Bus Shelters under EPC Contract for Development of road from Bannerghatta on SH-87 to Besthamanahalli on SH-35 Jigani, Haragadde and Indalwadi (km 0+000 to 22+980) in Bengaluru Surrounding Roads under (Package-3B)". Total No of Bus Shelters: 15.** Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakh): **88.27.** Earnest Money Deposit: **(EMD) Rs.1.32 Lakh through kpp portal.** Period of completion in months (including monsoon): **3 (three) months.**

1. Interested bidder may access bidding documents and also upload the tenders through kpp portal and documents can be downloaded from web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
2. The Technical bids along with EMD and financial Bids are to be submitted as per the instructions in the bidding documents.
3. The Schedule of dates for various activities is as follows: (i) Pre-bid meeting is on **07-08-2024 at 15.00 hours at KRDCL Head Office, Bangalore** and Pre-bid queries should be submitted within this time. (ii) Last Date for submission of Technical and Financial Bids is on **17-08-2024 up to 17.00 hours.** (iii) Time & Date of opening of Technical Bids is on **19-08-2024 at 11.30 hours at KRDCL Head Office.**

Note: Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on kpp portal / KRDCL Website http://www.krdcl.in

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER KRDCL, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/RO1222/AAPL/2024-25

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOMATHI P, W/o Late D Dhanashekar, R/a #53, Ganesha Temple Street, Behind Tin Factory, Udaya Nagar, Dooravaninagar Post, Bengaluru-560016 have changed my name to P Komathi vide affidavit dt: 01.08.2024 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru

HEALTH

SUBAM ACU CARE, Ph: 9731565019, Electronic city. Home visits available on appointment. All physical and mental Treatment through acupuncture.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XIX ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-18) AT BANGALORE ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 4619 OF 2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., No. 4/10, 1st Floor, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bangalore- 560 068.
And represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Rohith Ali M. S/o Ishrath Ali M., Age: 24 years. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. MAHENDRA V.G.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION U/O 5, RULE FO 20 CPO

To,
Defendant :
Mr. MAHENDRA V.G.
Aged about 30 years, Son of Gangaiah, Residing at No. 29, 2nd Cross, M.S Layout, Reddy Katte, Behind Parle-G Factory, Channanayakanapalya, Bangalore-560 073.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,13,865/- (Rupees Five Lakh Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred And Sixty Five Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court (CCH-18), in person or by a pleader on the 18/09/2024 at 11.00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte. Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 25th day of July, 2024.

By the order of the court
City Civil Court
Bengalur

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East,
Bangalore- 560001

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PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client **Mr. Narayanaswamy Padmanabhan** has lost the following original documents viz., **1)** Sale deed dated 10-06-2010, registered on 09-08-2010, document No.4645/2010-11, **2)** Allotment Letter dated 10-08-2017, **3)** Surrender Letter dated 12-08-2009, **4)** Letter dated 30-05-2009, issued by KIADB, **5)** Letter of Formation dated 23-01-2009, issued by KIADB, in respect of the property bearing Plot **Nos.13, 14 and 15** of Antharasanahally, II Phase Industrial Area, Situated in **Sy.No.58 part of Thimlapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Tumkur Taluk, Tumkur District,** at ICICI Bank Ltd., Koramangala Branch, Bengaluru. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. **9844155041 and 9845035515.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Mob : 98441 55041, 96205 79310

IN THE COURT OF THE XX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU (CCH-32)
O.S.NO.62/ 1964

Between
Plaintiffs: Khan Bhadur Mustafa Ali Khan & Others
And
Defendants: Haji Saleh Mohammed Ahmed Sait & Others

PUBLIC NOTICE

The XX Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH-32) invites Applications from Public at large from Sunni Muslims, who are "Mussalihs" (who offer prayer in Jumma Masjid, OPH Road) for selection of **Five (5)** Trustees for a period of Five (5) years for "Jumma Masjid Trust Board".

The selection is made by the above Court, for a period of **Five (5) years.** The selection would be on the basis of performance in the interview to be held on an appropriate date as per the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.308/1961. The Sunni Muslims (Majors) who are interested may file their applications in writing along with a brief Resume in writing before the Registrar, City Civil Court Complex, Bengaluru City **on or before 30-08-2024** with the following particulars.

1. Name, Father's Name and Address
2. Age and Qualification
3. Occupation
4. Why and how interested

On receipt of Applications the candidates will be interviewed by the Presiding Officer, XX Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH-32) for appointment of Trustees.

The dates of interview will be notified on the Notice Boards of the Jumma Masjid, O.P.H. Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru and City Civil Court (CCH-32) in due course.

By Order of the Court
-sd-
Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

No:ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಕಾ.ಅ:ವಿದ್ಯುತ್:ಡಿ:ಎಂ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್:03/2024-25 **Date: 30.07.2024**

Tender Notification (Through e- Procurement portal)

Tenders have been invited in Single-cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 from registered eligible Electrical Contractors to undertake 14 number of works under 15th Finance Commission Basic Grants for the year 2024-25 in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation as prescribed in the tender document. The bidders who are interested in participating through Karnataka Public procurement tender can obtain the details in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

1.The last date and time for submission of tender through e-payment in e-procurement portal: **14.08.2024 till 4.00 P M**

2. The date and time of opening of tender in e-procurement portal **: 16.08.2024 at 4.30 P M.**

Sl No.	Details of works	Approx amount (Rs in lakhs)	Reservation	EMD amount (In Rs)	Contract period (including rainy season)	Class of contractors
1	Installation works of electric poles for street lights from Shivabasavanagara to Jyothinagara through Savalanga Road in Ward No. 3 (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23785)	45.00	General	90000.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
2	Installation works of electric poles at various places of Ward No. 06 and 07. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23770)	20.00	SC	25000.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
3	Installation works of street lights at the medians at Bye-pass road in Ward No. 33 in the limits of Shimogga City Corporation. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23752)	11.00	ST	13750.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
4	Installation works of flood lights inside the private bus stand in Ward No. 27 (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23741)	9.00	General	22500.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
5	Installation works of U G Cables at medians from Usha Nurshing Home Circle, Savalanga Road to DVS Circle and from Gopi Circle to KEB Circle. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23772)	8.00	General	20000.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
6	Replacement works of repaired U G Cables installed to the Octogonal Poles at right and left side of Gandhi Bazar main road, in Ward No. 22 and 23. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23773)	6.00	General	15000.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
7	Installation works of high mast electric lights at the circle in front of KSRTC bus stand in Ward No. 29. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23766)	5.00	General	12500.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
8	Installation works of electric poles for street lights at medians in the middle of B H Road near Vidyanagara Railway over bridge in Ward No. 14. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23788)	5.00	General	12500.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
9	Installation works of high mast electrical lights at various places at Mallikarjunanagara, Ward No. 04. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23803)	4.00	SC	5000.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
10	Installation works of mini high mast in front of Corporation Office near Retired employees union building circle in Ward No.21. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23759)	3.50	SC	4375.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
11	Installation works of mini high mast at Manjunath Badavane Circle near City Corporation's Exhibition Ground in Ward No. 27. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23748)	3.50	General	8750.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
12	Installation works of mini high mast at Somina Koppa Main Road near Channel and at the circle near Railway track, Aravinda Nagara in Ward No. 01. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23767)	3.00	General	7500.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
13	Installation works of electric poles for street lights at Sangolli Rayanna Circle, in Ward No. 04.(DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23794)	2.00	General	5000.00	3 Months	Class II and Above
14	Installation works of high mast at BSNL office circle in front of Kamala Nehru Girls College, in Ward No. 21. (DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT23744)	1.50	General	3750.00	3 Months	Class II and Above

Note: Any changes/corrigendum with regard to this tender will be published in e-procurement only.

Sd/– Executive Engineer
Electrical Division City Corporation, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.173-08/zenkar/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, Dasarahalli Division, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560 073

No:BBMP/EE/DD/Ten/11/2024-25 Date: 01.08.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Two Tender Document System) (KW-2) Call-5
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath works areas of Chikkasandra (SCP/TSP), Chikkasandra SC,ST Colony, Soundarya Layout, AGB Layout, Babanna Layout, Anjanadi Layout, Sidedahalli, NMH Layout in Ward No-17, Chikkasandra Sheetyhalli Sub Division. **Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 44.39 Lakhs EMD: ₹.89,000.00**
2.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath works at Defence Colony & Havanoor Layout, M.S. Ramaiah Layout, Muneshwara Nagara, Munikondappa Layout, Ashoka Nagara, Manjunatha Nagara, Bagalagunte Village, MEI Layout, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Byraveshwara Nagara, Sheshadri Layout, Karekallu (SCP/TSP) & Surrounding area in Ward No-18 Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli Sub Division. **Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 44.39 Lakhs EMD: ₹.89,000.00**
3.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath works in Sanjeevini Nagara 1st, 2nd, 3rd Stage, Vighneshwara Nagara, Lakshmanna Nagara, Gajannana Nagara, Srigandha Nagara, Munneshwara Nagara, Friends Colony, Maruthi Nagara, Pillappa Industrial Area and Nadkerappa Industrial Area, Shivananda Nagara (SCP/TSP) in Ward No-25, Sunkadakatte, Hegganahalli Sub Division. **Amount Put To Tender: ₹. 44.39 Lakhs EMD: ₹.89,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP portal of Government of Karnataka from **03.08.2024.** (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **12.08.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Technical Bids will be opened on **13.08.2024** at **4:30** pm. (4) Financial Bids will be opened on **14.08.2024** at **4:30** pm (If Possible).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division

CSDS-LOKNITI

Mental health matters: the psychological pressures of UPSC preparation

The relentless pressure to succeed can lead to a host of complications for UPSC aspirants. When asked about their experiences with stress, loneliness, and fear of underperformance, six in 10 aspirants reported having feelings of loneliness, while seven in 10 experienced stress

Suhas Palshikar
Vibha Attri
Devesh Kumar

The recent flooding of the basement of a coaching institute in Delhi has drawn our attention to the precarious living conditions of UPSC aspirants. While the tragic event has highlighted several systemic lapses, it also alludes to the gruelling journey countless students embark on while facing academic and economic pressures. These pressures end up taking a toll on their mental health. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s ADSI report 2021, an alarming 35 students end up taking their lives every day. Lokniti-CSDS data reveals that about a quarter of UPSC aspirants know someone who has either harmed themselves or attempted to commit suicide due to pressure.

Reasons for overwhelming pressure

The academic rigour required for clearing the UPSC examinations is daunting. The syllabus is vast and aspirants end up studying 10-12 hours a day, sacrificing sleep, a social life and sometimes, even basic self-care. The perpetual need to stay updated with current events adds to the burden, creating a vicious cycle of stress. In fact, our data reveals that nearly half of the students have been frequently experiencing self-induced pressure. This is further compounded by an anxiety of under-performance, which was reported by one in every three aspirants. Fierce competition and expectations from family members can add to this burden. About one-third of the students reported that they have 'often' or 'sometimes' experienced peer pressure (36%), while another quarter cited family pressure in a similar vein (24%) (Table 1).

Economically, the stakes are high. Many aspirants come from humble backgrounds, making the preparation process a significant financial investment. In our study, a significant number of students come from low-income groups. Data indicates that less than one sixth (15%) of the aspirants have a monthly family income between ₹30,000 and ₹50,000, while close to two of every 10 (17%) of the students' families earn less than ₹30,000. It is also important to note that another one sixth (16%) of UPSC aspirants have a farmer as the main earner, and a little less than one in every 10 (6%) come from families with skilled or semi-skilled workers as the main earners. These conditions are bound to trigger strong aspirations. As a result, students belonging to lower income groups were more likely to cite a good salary as the primary motive for choosing UPSC as a career path than those who have a higher family income (14% with a monthly income of less than ₹20,000 versus 5% with ₹50,000 and above).

Coaching fees further exacerbate financial pressures. Data indicates that close to half (43%) of the aspirants spend ₹1 to ₹2 lakh annually on coaching, 29% spend ₹2 to 3 lakh, while only 5% spend more than ₹3 lakh. Additional costs for housing, meals, stationery, and transport can again become cumbersome. While a majority reported having received financial support from home, one fifth (20%) of the students found it insufficient. To cover the shortfall, three in 10 students engaged in part-time jobs, while 8% offered tuitions. About 20% have borrowed money and one seventh (14%) manage by cutting costs. Only one sixths (16%) turn to their parents for additional funds. This pressure was significantly more pronounced for students from low-income families.

Recent paper leaks of the NEET and UGC NET have heightened stress about the integrity of exams. While a large number of students have said that these alleged paper leaks were planned (NEET - 63%, UGC NET - 45%), it does create anxiety about the possibility of a paper leak for the UPSC exam as well. When asked about their degree of worry, one in every three UPSC aspirants expressed the fear of a possible leak, with less than one in every five (19%) students worrying 'a lot'. Moreover, the pressure to succeed is so intense that one seventh (14%) of the students say that they have to clear the exam no matter what, whereas another 2% plan to work part time to prepare for re-examination.

Impact on mental health

The relentless pressure to succeed, compounded by the fear of disappointing family and friends can lead to a host of complications impacting mental health. When asked about their experiences with stress, loneliness, and fear of underperformance, six in 10 (60%) aspirants reported having feelings of loneliness, while seven in 10 experienced stress and fear of poor performance (Table 2). It was important for us to distinguish whether these high levels of stress were pre-existing or a result of UPSC preparations. In a bid to understand this, we asked the aspirants about their experiences.

Majority of aspirants reported an increase in nervousness, frustration, loneliness, fear, anger and sadness since starting their preparation (Table 3). In fact, over half the students indicated that these emotions have increased, except for anger, which was reported by four in 10 students. Although there was no significant change in feelings of depression and jealousy, a substantial proportion of students – three in 10 for each emotion – reported that these feelings had increased since the start of UPSC preparations.

Regarding their overall mental health, four in 10 students reported improvement compared to before they started preparing for UPSC. This positive change could be due to many factors like personal growth, a set routine, and motivation from being surrounded by like-minded peers with same goals. Three in 10 UPSC aspirants reported a worsening of their mental health, while two in 10 indicated that there has been no change in their mental health. (Table 4).

Various coping mechanisms

Having a strong support system is crucial to managing stress. A majority of the aspirants reported having a confidant whom they could share their feelings with. However, one in every five (22%) indicated lacking such support.

Students cope with pressures in various ways. When asked how they de-stress during times of extreme stress, four in every 10 (38%) reported that they watch web series, TV, or listen to music. Three in 10 engage in physical exercises or meditation, while a similar proportion reach out to a family member for support. One sixth (17%) of students reported that they go to sleep when facing extreme stress. While the majority has resorted to healthy coping mechanisms, some students used methods that can have a detrimental impact on their mental health. Among them, one in every 10 (10%) resumed studying when stressed. While this may help deal with immediate anxiety, it can have debilitating effects in the longer run. Similarly, 6% indicated that they resort to smoking or alcohol. A matter of concern is that, while most students have used different ways to cope, 2% of aspirants said that they do not know how to handle stress at all (Table 5).

When students are unable to cope with stressful situations, they approach a mental health professional. Alarmingly, the burden has mounted so much for students that one in every five (19%) felt the need to speak to a therapist since starting UPSC preparations. But only 6% actually ended up visiting one (Table 6). For others, concerns such as affordability, fear of being judged, lack of access became a hurdle in reaching out, while others had a preference to manage issues independently.

Similarly, needing medical prescription like sleeping pills or anti-depressants also allude to a deteriorating mental health. One in every 10 respondent agreed to have taken each of them, since they started preparations.

The journey of cracking the UPSC exams is undeniably challenging, demanding dedication and resilience. However, the psychological toll it takes on the students cannot be ignored. Addressing mental health challenges through self-care, support systems, and professional help is very important. Recognising the importance of mental health is the first step towards ensuring that aspirants are not only academically prepared but also mentally resilient.

Suhas Palshikar is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics. Vibha Attri and Devesh Kumar are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS.

Extreme pressure

When students are unable to cope with stressful situations, they approach a mental health professional. Alarmingly, the burden has mounted so much for students that one in every five felt the need to speak to a therapist since starting UPSC preparations

Table 1: The different types of pressure faced by students

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Family pressure	12	12	11	65
Peer pressure	14	22	11	53
Self pressure	47	25	6	22

Note: All figures in per cent.
Question asked: *How often do you feel these kinds of pressure while preparing for your competitive exams — often, sometime, rarely or never?*

Table 2: The emotions students feel while preparing for the exams

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Loneliness	29	32	14	25
Stress	38	34	10	18
Fear of under-performance	36	30	11	23

Note: All figures in per cent.
Question asked: *How often do you feel the following (the contents are given in the left column of the table)*

Table 3: How often students experience these emotions

	Experiencing emotions since the preparation of exams		
Emotion	**Increase**	**Decrease**	**No change**
Nervousness/ anxiety	64	8	27
Frustration	57	7	36
Loneliness	54	16	30
Fear	53	16	30
Sadness	53	10	37
Anger	42	20	37
Depression	30	10	60
Jealousy	26	9	65

Note: All figures in per cent. Rest did not respond.
Question asked: *Since you started preparing for the exam, have you noticed an increase or decrease in these emotions? (The contents are given in left column of the table)*

Method Note: The findings presented here are from a recent study conducted by Lokniti-CSDS with a sample size of 1,003 students preparing for UPSC in Delhi. The survey was carried out at three locations—Old Rajendra Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, and Karol Bagh—between the second and third weeks of July 2024. The research team included Rishikesh, Deepa T, Tarini Sharma, Yashodhara Ranjana, Ganesh R. Kulkarni, Shuchita Singh, Vrinda Deshmukh, Kairavi, Naman Jaju, Samyak, Divyansh, and Vithi. The survey was conducted face-to-face using a structured questionnaire, with each interview lasting 15-20 minutes. A similar study conducted in Kota had its findings published in *The Hindu* in a three-part series on November 6, 9, and 11, 2023.

Table 4: Overall mental health

Overall mental health as compared to before preparing for the UPSC exam	(%)
It has improved	44
It has deteriorated	33
It has remained the same	22

Note: All figures in per cent. Rest did not respond.
Question asked: *How would you rate your overall mental health now compared to before you started preparing for the UPSC exam? Has it improved or deteriorated?*

Table 5: Ways used by the students to de-stress

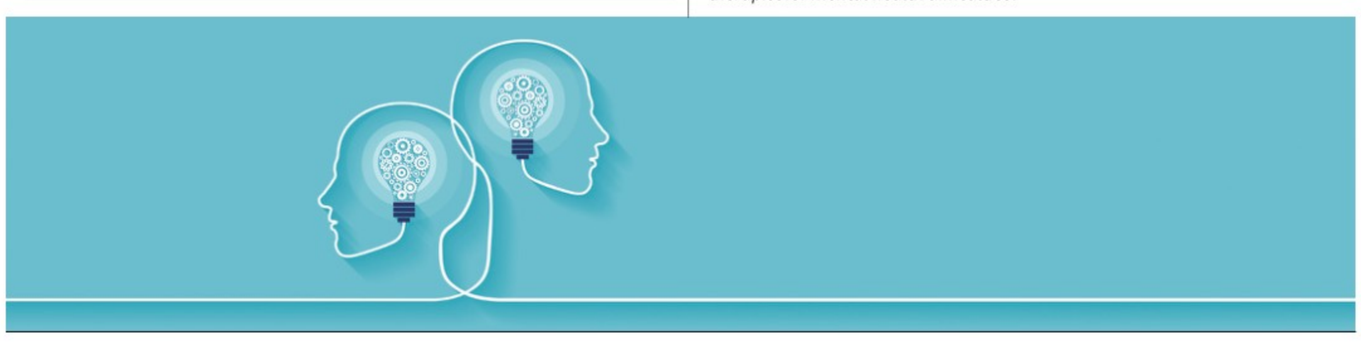
Ways used to de-stress	(%)
Watching web series/TV, listening to music	38
Going for a walk/start exercising/meditating	33
Talking to family/family/siblings	32
Going to sleep	17
Start studying	10
Going out for a smoke	4
Consuming alcohol	2
I don't know what to do	2
Not stressed at all	2
Others	21

Note: The question was designed to allow multiple responses, meaning that a single person could provide several answers.
Question asked: *What would you normally do when you are extremely stressed?*

Table 6: Coping mechanisms

Did you feel the need to go to a therapist for mental health difficulties	(%)
Yes, I visited a mental health professional	6
Yes, but I couldn't afford therapy	2
Yes, but I didn't because of fear of being judged	2
Yes, but I didn't because I prefer to fight it alone by myself	6
Yes, but, there is no access to such facilities	3
No	78

Note: Rest gave other responses
Question asked: *Since coaching started, did you feel the need to go to a therapist for mental health difficulties?*



THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Paris Olympics began on July 26 and will continue till August 11. Here is a quiz to test your knowledge on some of the legendary Indian athletes at the Olympic Games

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
Who won the first ever medal for India in the Olympics?

QUESTION 2
Who won the first individual medal for India after independence?

QUESTION 3
Who scored a hat-trick for India in the Olympic Football match, becoming the first Asian to do so?

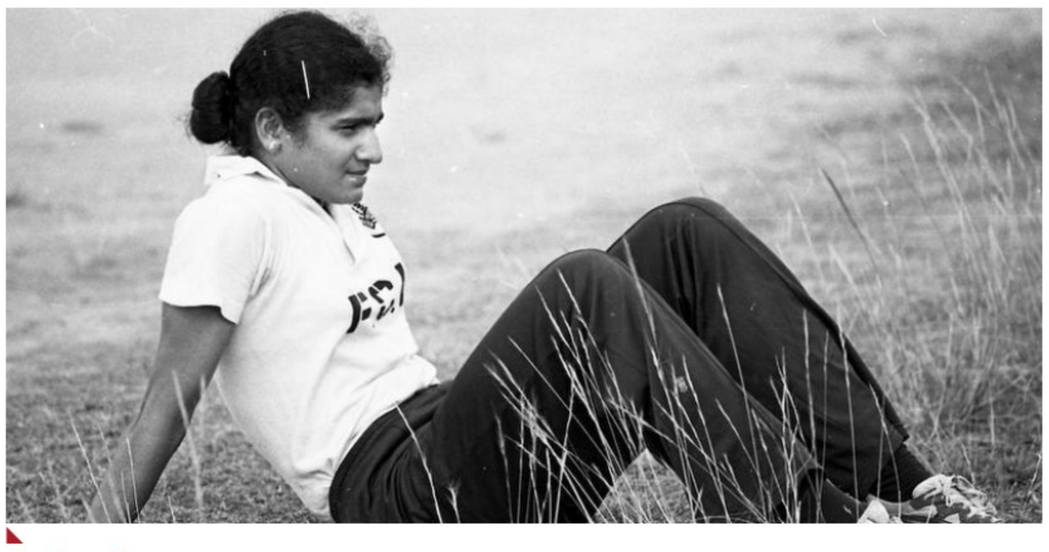
QUESTION 4
Which father and son duo won medals in the Olympic Games for India in the same sport?

QUESTION 5
Which father and son duo won medals in the Olympic Games for India in different sports?

QUESTION 6
Who was the captain when India last won a Gold medal in Hockey in the 1980 Moscow games?

QUESTION 7
Who is the first Indian woman to win an individual medal at the Olympics?

QUESTION 8
Who are the Indian women to have won multiple medals in Olympic Games?



Visual question:
Identify this athlete who became the first Indian woman athlete to qualify for a semi-final at the Olympics. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The term used for 26 member states of the Swiss Confederation. **Ans: Canton**
2. This famous line also attributed to the protagonists in Alexander Dumas' *The Three Musketeers* is also considered Switzerland's un-official motto. **Ans: *Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno* (One for all, all for one)**
3. The other flag other than the Swiss flag which is square in shape. **Ans: Vatican City**
4. There are four official languages of Switzerland. They are German, French, Italian and this. **Ans: Romansch**
5. The traditional name of Switzerland which is mentioned on its postage stamps. **Ans: Helvetia**
6. The cities which host the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee and World Health Organization. **Ans: Lausanne and Geneva respectively**
7. Name the festival held in Interlaken, once every 12 years, which features competitions of stone throwing, wrestling, and yodelling. **Ans: Unspunnenfest**
Visual: Name this Swiss humanitarian whose work earned him the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901. **Ans: Henri Dunant, the co-founder of Red Cross**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Debopriyo Mukherjee| Debarati Kar| Shiv Narayan| Sadhan Kumar Panda

A Space Marketing Initiative

Education Loan

Your ultimate guide to apply for an Education Loan

Although it may seem challenging, applying for an education loan can be simple if you know what steps to follow. This guide will make the process easier, whether you're a parent helping your child with their education or a student eager to begin your studies.

Determine Your Financial Needs

Determine how much money you need first. List all your out-of-pocket expenses, including living expenses, books, and tuition. Think about everything throughout the duration of the course. A thorough budget guarantees that you don't overpay or underestimate when making your request.

Research Loan Options

Financial companies and banks offer various kinds of education loans. Do your homework to determine which option is the best fit. Examine interest rates, terms of repayment, and any other benefits. Make sure the loan you select fits your needs because some are designed for particular courses or fields of study.

Check Your Eligibility

Every lender has different requirements. Generally speaking, admission to a reputable educational institution and a strong academic record are prerequisites. Also, loans may need a co-signer, who is typically a parent or legal guardian. Before applying, make sure you meet these requirements.

Prepare Your Documents

The application procedure may run smoothly if your documentation is ready. A few passport-sized pictures, your acceptance letter, academic documents, identification documentation, and proof of income are some of the typical supporting materials. You'll save time and avoid stress if you are organised.

Apply for the Loan

Once your paperwork is in order, you can submit a loan application. Although you can apply in person, the majority of banks allow online applications. Make sure all the information on the application form is correct by carefully filling it out. To prevent errors that could cause your application to be delayed, go over everything.

Prepare for an Interview

An interview may be necessary for some lenders. Fear not, this is merely an opportunity for you to justify your need for the loan and your intended use of it. Be sincere and self-assured. Talk about your academic aspirations and accomplishments, and demonstrate your dedication towards your studies.

Wait for Approval

The bank will check your information once you submit your application and perhaps appear in person for a discussion. It can take weeks, so make sure to be patient.

Receive Your Funds

Your loan will be granted and you'll be able to begin your studies sooner if everything is in order. The loan funds will be disbursed in accordance with the terms you agreed upon after they are authorised. This could be paid back in full or in installments, based on the terms set forth by the lender.

Tips for a Smooth Loan Process

Keep up the good grades to increase your chances of getting accepted. To prevent issues, make sure your financial needs are clearly stated. Before taking out a loan, make a thorough budget that accounts for all of your costs. Recognise the conditions of the loans, such as interest rates and payback plans. In case something is confusing, ask enquiries. Safeguard your money and refrain from making needless purchases. Even if payments aren't made right away, start making plans for repayment in advance. Make good use of grace periods to get your finances in order before repayments begin. Applying for a student loan doesn't have to be stressful if you prepare and plan beforehand. You'll be well on your way to accomplishing your academic objectives if you remain informed and take the right actions.

-Simran Kumar

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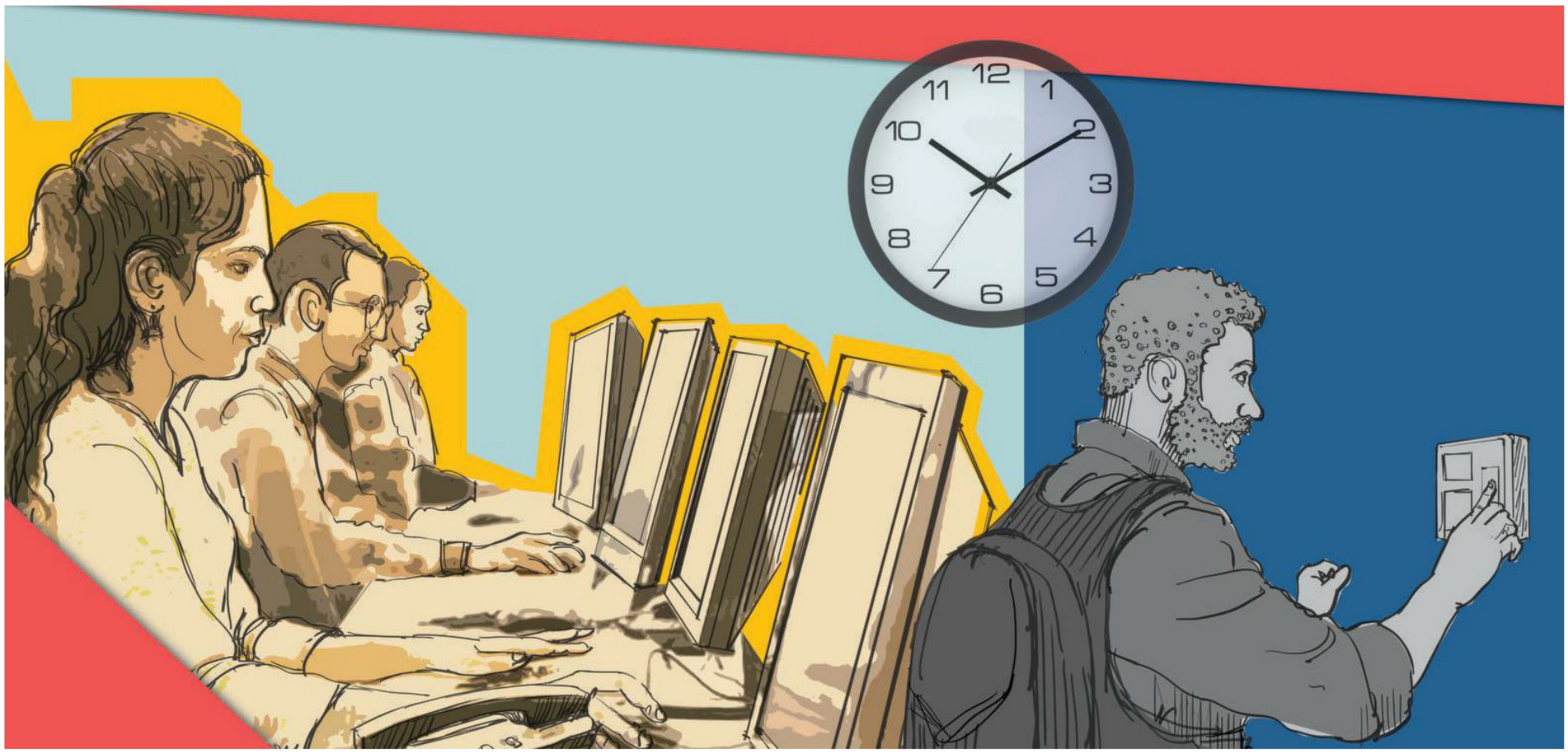


Bengaluru's technology sector: A golden goose or a workhorse?

Bengaluru's information technology industry is lauded for propelling Karnataka's economy for years now. But the recent proposal to increase the working hours of IT employees in the State to 14 hours a day, though put on the back burner now, has sent ripples across the 20 lakh-strong labour force in the sector, many of whom are already overworked and burned out, reports **Shilpa Elizabeth**

Kiran (name changed), who worked as a coder in Bengaluru with a leading e-commerce firm, used to find the work hours gruelling and exhausting. Pushed to the brink during the pandemic, when six to seven hours of meetings were followed by coding through the evening into the night, they quit overnight. Kiran later found a job with a gig platform in Spain, which gave them the flexibility to work any four days a week. As someone who was forced to make themselves available at the beck and call of the previous employer, Kiran was positively surprised this time.

The IT, ITeS and BPO sectors have been lauded as Bengaluru's golden goose, propelling Karnataka's economy for years now. But the recent proposal to increase the working hours of IT employees in the State to 14 hours a day has sent ripples across the 20 lakh-strong labour force in the sector, many of whom are already overworked and burned out.

As they prepare for a massive protest on August 3 at Freedom Park against increasing the working hours, though the proposal has been put on the back burner for now, the techies say the proposal is only the tip of an iceberg of exploitative practices within the industry.

The growth story

According to a Deloitte report ('Karnataka: Powering India's Growth'), which pegged the State's nominal Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at ₹22.41 trillion in FY23, Karnataka boasts of the highest per capita GSDP, significantly higher than the national per capita GDP. The most important contributor to this undoubtedly has been the IT/ITeS-BPO sector.

As of 2022, around 1,500 IT firms have set up shop in Karnataka and exported software worth ₹6,30,000 crore, about 40% of India's total exports.

In return, the companies enjoy reduced stamp duty, tax breaks, subsidised land, infrastructure support, exemption from several labour laws, and more.

While the ready availability of a skilled workforce played a major role in turning the State into the industry's favourite destination, the charm of the sector was irresistible for the professionals, too. Thanks to the IT boom in the 1990s, many middle-class families saw an expansion in their income, made foreign trips for the first time and enjoyed a certain social status that came with the label of 'a software professional.'

The other side

Cut to 2024, and the industry seems to have lost its sheen among many. Sitting at the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) office in Madiwala, Sooraj Nidiyanga, secretary at KITU, points to the restaurants that line the busy road outside the office.

"Many of these were started by former IT employees," he says. "It's hard to find someone who has retired from a technical role in IT; either they have to move to a managerial role after doing an MBA. Else they are burned out, forced to leave or terminated."

> The impression that IT employees earn loads of money is wrong. At the entry level, salaries have been deteriorating if you adjust them for inflation. The risk of being terminated in the name of 'cost optimisation' increases as one climbs up positions and starts earning more.
>
> **V.J.K. NAIR**
> trade union leader

A protest being held in Bengaluru against the proposal to increase the daily work hours.

Similar move in factories

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

A similar move to increase the working hours in factories and establishments coming under the Factories Act earlier was seen by the labour unions as the government succumbing to accommodate the demand of the electronics manufacturing industries.

The Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2023, brought in by the previous BJP government, increased the maximum daily working hours from nine hours to 12 hours, increased the permissible hours of overtime from 75 hours to 144 hours in a quarter, increased the hours of work of a worker without interval from five hours to six hours even as it allowed women to work in night shift (from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

Though the All India Trade Union Congress dragged the matter to the International Labour Organisation with a complaint since it violated the ILO convention C001, the government went ahead with its notification.

"Since then, the provisions are slowly being implemented in industries. Though the weekly work hours remained at 48 hours, allowing 12 hours of overtime in a week will mean 60 hours in a five-day week by increasing nine hours to 12 hours. Essentially, 60 hours of work in a week is now legal, though the 48 work a week is still there on paper. This will bring huge benefit to the employer," says AITUC Secretary M. Satyanand.

Ever since the news of increasing the work hours broke, groups of workers have been regularly holding gate meetings and street campaigns, some of them in front of offices of industry giants like Qualcomm, Capgemini, Oracle and Accenture. A mass email campaign started by KITU fetched more than 2,000 responses overnight.

As per the new proposal, "an employee working in IT/ITeS/BPO sector may be required or allowed to work for more than 12 hours in a day and not exceeding 125 hours in three continuous months."

The proposal comes at a time when a large number of employees are already overworked without being provided any overtime benefits. According to a recent study by the Onsurity and Knowledge Chamber of Commerce and Industry, over 50% of Indian techies work for more than nine hours daily, clocking an average of 52.5 hours weekly, resulting in mental and physical health issues.

"Even after we reach home, the company expects us to take their calls, respond to emails and log in if required," says Nidiyanga. India, particularly Bengaluru, is a global IT powerhouse, but at a time when countries such as Australia, Kenya, and several European nations have been legislatively moving in the direction of favouring the employee's 'right to disconnect', we seem to be in reverse gear, he feels.

The number games

After the resistance became stiff, Labour Minister Santosh Lad told media persons that the government did not moot the proposal, but by the industry, which has been pressurising the government.

While Nasscom denied making any such suggestions, sources indicated a Taiwanese electronics company, an American MNC and a couple of prominent industrialists from the city pushing for it.

If the proposal is passed, IT companies stand to gain enormously. "It all boils down to the number of hours IT companies can bill a client," says Soujanya Sridharan, researcher and senior manager at Aapti Institute. "These are service-oriented companies, which rely on cheap labour and extensive billing hours to make their huge profit margins. They earn in forex, and their KPIs are indexed to how many hours they bill, how many projects the employee works on and so on."

> Even after we reach home, the company expects us to take their calls, respond to emails and log in if required.
>
> **SOORAJ NIDIYANGA**
> secretary, KITU

Trade union leader V.J.K. Nair believes that companies, by extending the working hours of employees, are trying to replace the existing three-shift system with a two-shift system. "Many of them have clients in the US and the UK, countries in two different time zones. They want workers in a single shift to cater to both the US and Europe," he notes.

According to him, companies that expand their presence from China to India are also trying to introduce a version of the infamous 'dormitory labour regime' practised in the neighbouring country, allowing managers to exert excess control over workers.

Absence of data

While industry leaders often cite numbers in terms of the sector's contribution to GDP, jobs created, profits made and so on, the absence of data on the financial gains of the workforce has been conspicuous. For example, there is no data available on the amount companies have spent on overtime benefits.

"In March, via additional Labour Commissioner, we gave a petition to the Labour Minister requesting data on the money companies have spent as overtime payment. In the last meeting, we were told that although the Labour Commissioner sent letters regarding the same to all companies, nobody responded to it," says Nidiyanga.

A mountain of problems

The mobilisation of IT employees after the proposal to increase working hours has been significant. According to Nidiyanga, techies are now organising themselves and then reaching out to the union, unlike earlier when the union used to approach the workers. For many, the move to make them work longer has been a tipping point in the backdrop of the myriad problems that have persisted in the industry.

At most companies, the entry salaries have remained stagnant at around ₹3.5 lakh per annum for the last two decades despite rising inflation. Employees are hired and fired at will, and mass layoffs are normalised, though the sector enjoys a rosy image outside.

"The impression that IT employees earn loads of money is wrong. At the entry level, salaries have been not even stagnant but deteriorating if you adjust them for inflation. The risk of being terminated in the name of 'cost optimisation' increases as one climbs up positions and starts earning more," Nair says. According to the All India IT & ITeS Employees' Union (AIITEU), around 20,000 techies lost their jobs in 2023. Meanwhile, close to a lakh people were hired in lower positions, says Nidiyanga.

With no grievance redressal mechanism in place, the only option for workers is to file cases at the labour office or courts, which could then crawl on for years. The union has been fighting cases on behalf of employees terminated for reasons including pregnancy and ailing kids.

In BPO sector

Meanwhile, in the BPO sector, more often than not, employees who work for around 12 hours are not even paid the minimum wage. Salary denial, holding back certificates, contracts that include bond clauses ... the list of issues goes on.

"The most severely exploited is the much larger workforce in BPOs and KPOs. There is no regulation, and wage level is around ₹106 per hour," Nair points out.

The continuing exemption from the Industrial Employment Standing Orders (IESO) Act allows the companies near impunity against such excesses. In March, thousands of employees took out a rally protesting the renewal of exemption from the IESO Act despite the companies not adhering to a single condition that was mandated to provide the exemption. When the exemption was renewed in 2019 and 2024, the union approached the high court. Both cases are still pending.

Chain effect

Noting that today IT controls entire systems from healthcare to banking to communications to aviation across the world, Nair argues that problems affecting the workforce would eventually turn into larger social problems.

Manasa (name changed), who works with a leading IT company in the city, points to the recent incident of Microsoft outage. "One outage brought the entire aviation industry to a standstill. This shows the all-pervasive nature of IT today. There are important government projects people like me work on. A large number of people stand to benefit from these projects. But, how effectively these projects would take off is also a function of how efficiently employees like us can work. Overburdening us is not the way to get the most work out of us."

Hanumankind's new song and music video for 'Big Dawgs' with producer Kalmi and filmmaker Bijoy Shetty has become his biggest release yet

Big league with Big Dawgs

Anurag Tagat

The YouTube comments section for Hanumankind's latest release, 'Big Dawgs' has brought the whole world to the Kerala-origin, Bengaluru-based rapper's doorstep.

From Kenya and Turkey to Kazakhstan and the US, everyone is tuning in to see Hanumankind in the Well of Death, the fairground attraction where people drive motorbikes or cars in a silo held in place by centrifugal force.

The video received worldwide acclaim and plenty of hype from his own hip-hop heroes such as Project Pat, Bun B and more.

Hanumankind says it was "terrifying" to be inside the car as it defied gravity. "They call it the Well of Death for a reason. You have to credit those who perform there everyday because they risk their lives to keep people entertained. I was just there for a day, but I'm blessed they accepted me into their community and let me partake in something like this," he says.

The video was directed by Hanumankind's long-time collaborator, Bijoy Shetty, who first thought of the Well of Death as a venue for their video. The idea resonated with their ethos of "no risk, no reward" and the rapper says, "This is something all of us have grown up watching, not just in India, but around the world too. We prepped ourselves, shot and released it, and now, here we are."

The video was shot in Malappuram, not too far from Hanumankind's home. Their previous team-up, the early 2023 song 'Go To Sleep' with music by Parimal Shais, paid tribute to *Fight Club* and still lives in memory of those who follow Hanumankind's gritty, no-holds-barred rap.

It took a year and a half, but now, 'Big Dawgs' with music by Kalmi, is Hanumankind's biggest song yet. With over 4.1 million views on YouTube and 4.1 million streams on Spotify since its release on July 9, a shorter reel introducing the 'Big Dawgs' video has garnered 4.7 million views on Instagram. It even blew up on TikTok with 3.7 million views on a review video.

With top hip-hop publications such as *Pigeons and Planes* as well as their Instagram page shining a spotlight, the world was watching and judging Hanumankind and the song. "I'm grateful how it all came together," he says.

Topping the charts Hanumankind and his music. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He may have brought the world together in the comments section on YouTube, but social media's nagging, dismissive negativity and questioning of how 'Big Dawgs' became huge, also came to the front. Some began claiming that all the pages posting about the release were paid promotions. In today's media age, some conceded it was necessary to put in the money to promote a song as hard-hitting as 'Big Dawgs'.

Hanumankind, on the other hand, says their minds were blown by how pages picked up on the song and video of their own volition.

Hanumankind says he has been building a community within the country. "That has been my base, that is still my home, my heart, my everything," he adds.

He points out that is was the same community which has given him millions of streams over the years, ever since he released his debut EP *Kalari* in 2019.

It was the same community that showed him how to upend trolls and racist remarks that floated up on social media posts when 'Big Dawgs' began gaining attention.

"I think it's an effect of our time. There is a lot of negativity going around, and people aren't happy, so they find reasons to attack you," he says. Unfazed, he adds, "I think hate is quite normal in this world. It shouldn't deter a person from doing what they're supposed to do."

Hanumankind also got a shoutout from his idols such as Project Pat (whom he references in the song), Three 6 Mafia, plus Bun B from the rap group UGK.

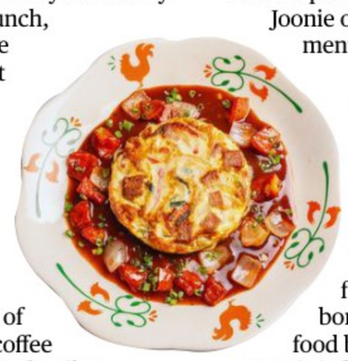
Tea time lah

We sit down with the city-based pastry artiste to chat about her new restaurant and the journey that brought her here

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

Coffee shops or 'kopi tiams' in Malaysia are at the heart of the community. "You can see uncles reading newspapers in the mornings, with a slice of kaya toast and cups of coffee," says Joonie Tan, who is from Malaysia, but now based in Bengaluru. Malaysian cuisine is frequently seen on pan Asian menus in the country, but there are no dedicated restaurants. With an aim to bring this robust culture to the city, she started Kopitiam Lah, a Malaysian eatery and coffee shop. Over lunch, Joonie tells me about the exhaustive research that went into creating the restaurant and the story behind the dishes.

I am charmed by the place as I walk in. A *maneki neko* (waving lucky cat doll) is on the bakery display, and tins of Milo are stacked at the coffee counter. Everything from the tiles on the floor to the wooden furniture and the crockery is custom made and true to the style of a kopi tiam. There is a breakfast menu till 11.30am and then a lunch menu for the rest of the day. We take a seat just by the live kitchen. For breakfast, they serve kaya toast, pancakes, steamed eggs (that come highly recommended). The lunch menu has small plates like curry puffs, dumplings, and a main course of Malay staples. The head chef, David D'souza, used to work at Wabi Sabi at The Oberoi. To research and design this menu, he took numerous trips to Malaysia and even stayed with Joonie's aunt for two weeks. Noted Malaysian chef Darren Teoh is also a consultant.



The classic Malaysian kopi is sweetened with condensed or evaporated milk, while the kopi-o is served black. The beans are dark roasted, and have a complex flavour. The menu also has teh (tea made with condensed milk, that gives it a silky feel) and classic Milo, a beloved drink in SE Asia. I sip on a cup of piping hot teh, as Joonie orders specials from the menu.

The first dish on the table is mama's curry and roti canai. The hearty curry has chunks of potato, veggies and chicken in a coconut milk and curry leaf broth. The roti canai is the cousin of a Malabar parotta, layered and flaky. "Malaysian cuisine borrows a lot from South Indian food because of immigration," Joonie informs me as I take a bite. Rojak is a salad that we don't usually see on Indian menus. Fresh fruits like muskmelon, green apple, raw mango, and crispy crackers make up the salad.

Dessert again is full of surprises. The bakery counter offers puffs and pastries from Lavonne, but I opt for kuih. These are bite-sized traditional sweets and cakes made of steamed rice flour. The attention to detail, and the thorough research and training of the team make Kopitiam Lah a must-try. Joonie's love for her culture and roots translates to the warmth that one can feel while dining at the restaurant.

All in a cup Savour traditional kopi and (below) the Hainanese omelette. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Yelahanka's memory lanes

Into the past File photo of Yelahanka New Town. K GOPINATHAN

On August 3 and 4, Yelahanka New Town will host an art exhibition, Mapping Memories: The Lost Establishments of Yelahanka by Lakshmi Nagaraj. Taking place from 11am to 8pm at a public ground opposite the State Public Library, this interactive and nostalgic event promises to bring the art directly to the people.

The exhibition's main attraction is a large-scale, collective memory map of Yelahanka New Town. Paintings will be displayed at locations corresponding to the memories of the residents, offering a personal history of the area. Visitors can also explore individual memory maps and drawings from participants, providing a deeper insight into the personal connections residents have with their community.

A 'build-a-painting' station will add an interactive element, allowing visitors to engage in creative activities and contribute to the exhibition. This inclusive approach aims to break away from the traditional gallery culture and ensure accessibility for all social classes.

Prominent figures from the art and culture world are expected to participate in the event, including Menaka Rodrigues, Executive Director of the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA); Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat, Padma Shri awardee and Indic historian; Ranjana Raghunathan, ethnographer and anthropologist; and Talin Subbaraya, Bengaluru-based performance artist.

The true highlight, however, will be the participation of Yelahanka's residents, whose memories and stories are at the heart of the exhibition. This event is not just an exercise in nostalgia but also a critical exploration of collective memory and the significance of public spaces.

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Kumaraswamy does a U-turn, agrees to participate in BJP's padayatra

Padayatra to be taken out from Bengaluru to Mysuru against alleged corruption of Cong. govt.; it will be inaugurated by HDK and BSY tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The uncertainty over the proposed padayatra of the Opposition parties in Karnataka ended on Wednesday with JD(S) State president and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who had left the coalition partner – BJP – red-faced by opting out of it, did an about-turn on Thursday and agreed to inaugurate the eight-day foot march.

The padayatra is being taken out from Bengaluru to Mysuru, the home district of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, to "create public awareness" about the alleged irregularities in Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), besides the alleged diversion of funds earmarked for the welfare of SC/ST communities and the scam at the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

Mr. Kumaraswamy had accused the BJP of planning the padayatra without involving the JD(S) and also embarrassing him by involving its leader from Hassan, Preetham Gowda, who allegedly worked against his family in the alleged distribution of pen drives containing sexual abuse videos of his nephew, Prajwal Revanna.

He had also cited the ongoing sowing season and heavy rains that had caused havoc as reasons for not taking up an "ill-timed" padayatra.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D Kumaraswamy with BJP leaders B.Y. Vijayendra , Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BJP leaders intervene

However, the JD (S) leader did a volte-face after the BJP central leadership intervened and reportedly assured him of taking care of his concerns.

On Thursday, BJP national general secretary and State in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, and party State unit president B. Y. Vijayendra held consultations with Mr. Kumaraswamy and convinced him to take part in the padayatra. Mr. Agarwal announced to the media in Delhi that the padayatra would be flagged off as per schedule on Saturday from Bengaluru.

Blaming a "communication gap" as being responsible for Mr. Kumaraswamy's earlier reservations about the padayatra, he said this had been resolved. Answering queries on Mr. Kumaraswamy's opposition to involvement of Mr. Preetham Gowda in the planning of the padayatra, he sought to downplay his role. "In a party like the BJP it is the organisation that has more importance than individuals."

Mr. Vijayendra said the padayatra would be inaugurated jointly by Mr. Kumaraswamy and BJP veteran leader B. S. Yediyurappa on Saturday at the NICE Road-Mysuru Road junction at Kengeri. BJP State general secretary V. Sunil Kumar said the padayatra would cover a total distance of 140 km at a rate of 20 km a day and about 20 groups had been formed to monitor it.

Cong. to hold meets along padayatra route

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar announced on Thursday that the Congress would hold meetings along the route of BJP-JD(S) padayatra to question their "moral right", citing alleged misuse of agencies and injustice done to Karnataka in fund allocation and other fronts.

On Friday, a meeting will be held at Bidadi, a day ahead of the launch of the padayatra. Events will be held in Ramanagara, Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya, and finally in Mysuru.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar said the BJP cannot take away the existence of the JD(S) in its stronghold of Old Mysore region. "I believe Union Minister for Heavy Industries and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy will retain his party's and his own identity and existence. There may be friction between the BJP and the JD(S) due to this."

Mr. Shivakumar was replying to a question on Mr. Kumaraswamy's comments on the padayatra.

"The BJP won 10 seats in the Lok Sabha election with the help of the JD(S), which has a base in Mysuru, Mandya, and Bengaluru Rural. The JD(S) obviously cannot accept it if the BJP wants to take out a padayatra without taking its leaders into confidence. It is a different matter if the BJP and the JD(S) are merging," he said.

HC stays criminal proceedings against BJP MP Sudhakar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The case pertains to seizure of ₹4.8 crore in cash in April from the premises belonging to a voter

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed further criminal proceedings against BJP Lok Sabha member K. Sudhakar in connection with a case of seizure of ₹4.8 crore in cash in April from the premises belonging to a voter residing in the Nelamangala police station limits a day prior to the elections held to the Chickballapur Lok Sabha constituency on April 26.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by Dr. Sudhakar, who has contended that he was falsely implicated merely on a statement of the election nodal officer that the money was kept in the house of one Govindappa of Madavara for its alleged distribution to voters of the constituency as a bribe on behalf of the petitioner.

Pointing out that there is no material to link the seized cash to the petitioner, it has been contended in the petition that he was arraigned as an accused merely on the statement made by the nodal officer, who had alleged that he received a WhatsApp call and two messages. It was alleged in the complaint that the mobile phone number, from which the nodal officer received the call and messages, belongs to the petitioner.

However, while denying these allegations, it has been contended in the petition that there is no material available either in the complaint, filed on April 25 or the chargesheet submitted on May 3, that money is linked to the petitioner or it was kept for bribing the voters.

How Council of Ministers made out a case for not giving sanction for prosecution

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The resolution passed by the Karnataka's Council of Ministers on Thursday – advising Governor Taawarchand Gehlot to withdraw the show-cause notice issued to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asking him why sanction for prosecution against him should not be given in the alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) – says that the Governor has failed to take note of the complainant's antecedents.

'Motivated acts'

It alleged that T.J. Abraham comes with "criminal antecedents", having criminal cases of blackmail and extortion registered against him, and his conduct in misusing the public interest jurisdiction had been frowned upon by the Supreme Court, levying cost on him. His acts were motivated and lacked *bona fides*, it alleged.

At the press conference held on Thursday after a meeting of the Council of Ministers that passed the resolution, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar made similar allegations and said Mr. Abraham had filed cases against him and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa also.

The resolution passed by the Council of Ministers also said that the Governor had failed to take note of the fact that the allegations made by the applicant do not reveal any offence punishable under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The sanction for prosecution, it felt, was premature since the applicant had filed a complaint with the Lokayukta police and had not followed the mandatory procedures laid down by the Supreme Court.

The show-cause notice from the Governor said, "On perusal of the request, it is seen that the allegations against you are of serious nature and *prima facie* seem plausible." This leads to an undeniable conclusion that there is pre-judging of the issue, disregarding the report of the Chief Secretary dated July 26, said the resolution.

'Misuse of office'

The sequence of events leads to an unequivocal conclusion that there is a gross misuse of the constitutional office of the Governor and a concerted effort to destabilise a lawfully elected majority government in Karnataka for political consequences, said the resolution.

Timeline of events

July 5
The Governor *suo motu* seeks report from the Chief Secretary on alleged irregularities in MUDA, based on media reports

July 14
The State government constitutes a judicial commission to probe the issue

July 15
The Governor seeks another report from the Chief Secretary on the alleged scam after the Rajya Raitha Sanghagala Okkoota complains to him

July 26
T.J. Abraham, an activist, files complaint to the Governor seeking sanction for prosecution in the MUDA case, around **11.30 a.m.**

The Chief Secretary submits a report to the Governor, around **6.30 p.m.**

The Governor issues a show-cause notice to the Chief Minister in the afternoon and gives one-week's time **(till August 1)** to respond

All Ministers attend breakfast meeting hosted by CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot issuing a show-cause notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a possible move to sanction his prosecution for alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), the Chief Minister hosted a breakfast meeting for his ministerial colleagues at Cauvery, his official residence in Bengaluru, ahead of the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Thursday.

In a show of strength, all Ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Home Minister G. Parameshwara, attended the breakfast meeting.

Mr. Siddaramaiah in the meeting apparently discussed with his ministerial colleagues the notice issued by the Governor and briefed them about his discussions with the central leaders of the party. During the meeting, Mr. Siddaramaiah asked his deputy, Mr. Shivakumar, to preside over the meeting of the Council of Ministers which took stock of the issue.

MUDA had allotted 14 sites to Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, in lieu of the land that was acquired from her "illegally". It is learnt that legal advisers of the Congress government have consulted legal experts in Delhi to prepare a strategy and a reply to the Governor's notice.

The Governor's move comes after a delegation of BJP legislators met him on July 25 and submitted to him a memorandum. Advocate-activist T.J. Abraham had also complained to the Governor on the MUDA matter.

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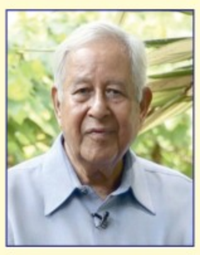
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE



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State govt. unveils Cyber Security Policy; ₹100 crore set aside to implement it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has unveiled the Cyber Security Policy, 2024, to combat rising cybercrimes, increase awareness, build skills, boost public-private collaboration and to deploy technologies to protect all digital infrastructure owned by the State and citizens.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and IT and Biotechnology, said the State government had set aside ₹103.87 crore for the next five years to implement the Cyber Security Policy. This would be met through the budgetary allocation of the Department of IT, BT and Science and Technology, he said.

Focus areas

The policy would focus on key areas such as awareness and education, skill building, promotion of industry and start-ups, and partnerships for capacity building. The policy would also create an assurance framework, strengthen the regulatory framework, quickly respond to security threats, protect critical information, reduce supply-chain risks, and develop human resources, the Minister said at a media conference.

Minister Priyank Kharge releasing the 'Cyber Security Policy - 2024' in Bengaluru on Thursday.

"The State government has crafted this policy to establish a resilient and secure cyberspace for our citizens and enterprises," he said.

This policy was also reviewed by the Indian Institute of Science and drafted collaboratively by the Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and Science and Technology, the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance), and the Home Department in consultation with the industry.

Mr. Kharge said to bolster cybersecurity skills and digital safety across the State, the government has roped in Cisco to train 40,000 (of which 20,000 will be women) people in cybersecurity skills and awareness.

"This underscores our commitment to building a robust talent pipeline to combat rising cyber threats," he added.

Training programmes offered under this scheme would include CyberOps Associate meant for graduates and final year students to offer them in-depth knowledge and practical skills, cybersecurity essentials targeted at graduates and students to impart learning on how to protect digital assets, and introduction to cybersecurity, an industry course meant for graduates and students. This programme is expected to improve employability of youths in Karnataka in cybersecurity jobs.

The launch also featured a round-table discussion on 'Strengthening national cyber resilience: Enhancing government and private sector partnerships in cybersecurity' in which thought leaders from various sectors participated. One of the leaders suggested that "sector-specific intelligence" was required to combat cybercrimes. For instance, in the healthcare sector, diagnostics lab reports were loosely controlled and it was an easy area for bad actors to attack to take away personal medical information. Also, some medical equipment that were sold in the market were prone to easy hacking. Another industry expert suggested that ethical use of technology should be made part of the school curriculum.

PIL pleas can now be filed at Dharwad, Kalaburagi Benches of HC

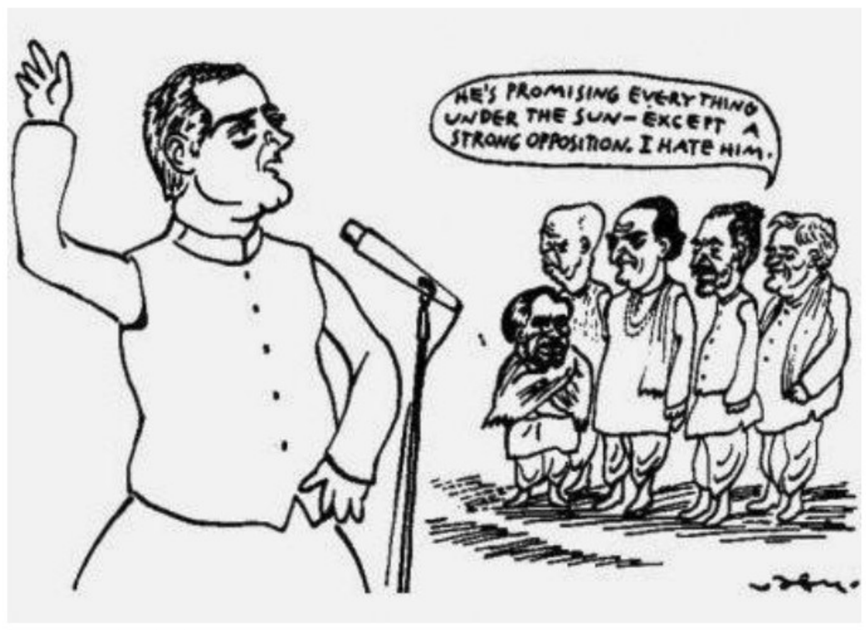
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

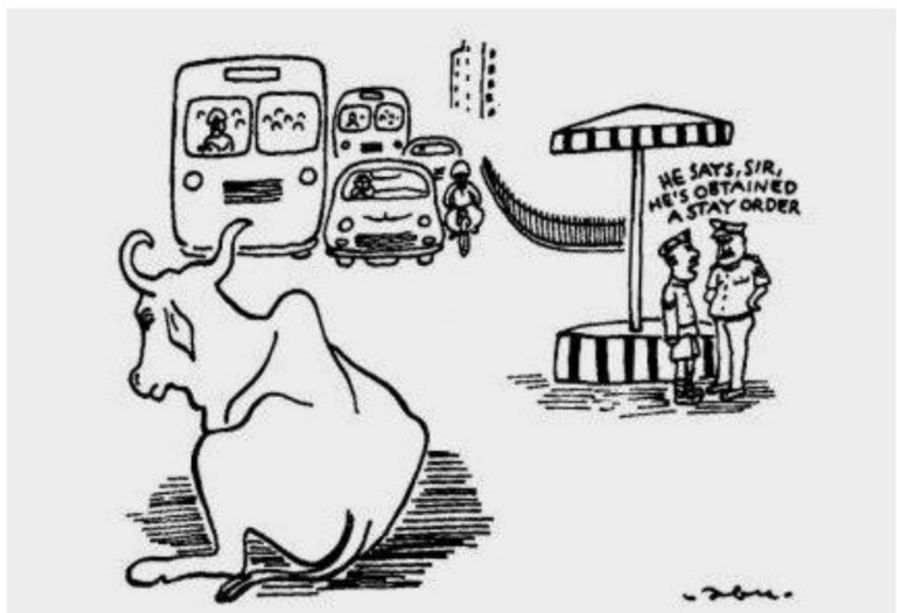
The public interest litigation (PIL) petitions, arising out of the districts within the jurisdiction of the Dharwad and Kalaburagi Benches of the High Court of Karnataka can be now filed in these respective Benches with effect from Thursday, but the hearing of these PIL petitions would be held before the designated Division Bench at the Principal Bench of the court in Bengaluru through hybrid mode, said a notification issued by the court.

The filing counters at the Dharwad and Kalaburagi Benches will receive PIL petitions and register and scrutinise them before transferring them to the Principal Bench for hearing, the notification stated.

Abu's World: An exhibition celebrating the birth centenary of the cartoonist set to open in city

The exhibition will offer a glimpse into the political history of both post-Independent India and post-world war events, as well as insights into acclaimed cartoonist Abu Abraham's journeys





Cartoonist Abu Abraham's cartoons. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Abu's World, an exhibition of the work of the iconic cartoonist Abu Abraham, will open in Bengaluru on 3rd August 2024. This display, part of his birth centenary celebrations, will be held at the Indian Cartoon Gallery until the end of the month. "We wanted to do something to mark his 100th birth anniversary," says his daughter Ayisha Abraham, who co-curated the exhibition with her sister Janaki Abraham. Also, since they have been housing his work since his death in 2002, 22 years ago, they felt it was time to bring it out to the public. "Memory fades, and the younger generation didn't know he did work like this, chronicled Indian politics with such humour and satire," she says

The exhibition opened in Kochi's Durbar Hall earlier this year, featuring around 310 selected drawings from his exhaustive repertoire of "one or two cartoons a day for fifty years," as Ayisha remembers. However, since the Indian Cartoon Gallery is a smaller space, only around 120-130 of these original 310 will be on show at the upcoming exhibition, while another subset will be displayed at the Bangalore International Centre towards the end of the month, around 250 drawings in all. Additionally, the historian, Janaki Nair, has annotated a selection of cartoons for a booklet which will be available at the exhibition venues.

According to Ayisha, the exhibition offers both a political history of post-independence India and post-war world events, as well as insights into Abu's journeys, life experiences, and the aesthetic development of his art. It also provides insights into his experiences in the U.K., where he lived and worked for about 15 years and documents other key moments in Indian history, including Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's era and the rise of the Hindutva, among other things. ""The exhibition is a chronology of his work, and it also reflects our present political context (cartoons that speak of democratic processes and elections, the push-and-pull between Centre and State, the Palestine-Israel conflict, war and peace from Vietnam to the Gulf War. Much of the work remains relevant today," she says.

About the artist

Attupurathu Mathew Abraham, popularly known as Abu, was born on June 11, 1924 in Tiruvalla, and grew up in Kollam, Kerala. "He was an untrained artist and was obviously gifted," says Ayisha, pointing out that Abu, who came from a family of modest means, started drawing from a very young age, even when there was not much paper and pencil available.

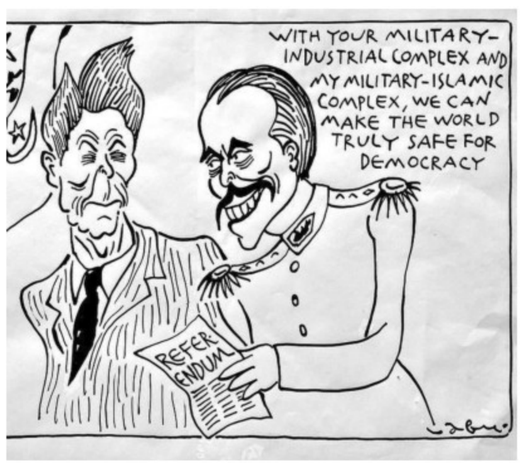
He went on to study at the University College in Thiruvanthapuram before taking up a job as a crime reporter for *The Bombay Chronicle* and moving to Mumbai. "He first worked as a crime reporter in Bombay, and published his drawings in miscellaneous journals," she says. Then, in 1951, he joined Shankar's Weekly, an Indian satirical magazine published between 1948 and 1975 founded and run by Keshav Shankar Pillai. "He was really trying to develop a style of his own," she says. "His drawing was more tentative earlier and the exhibition has some of these early drawings."

In 1953, Abu went to England, where he spent the next 15-odd years, contributing to publications like *Punch* magazine, the *Daily Sketch*, *The Observer*, and *The Guardian*. "He travelled extensively in Europe and sketched as he travelled," says Ayisha. Abu, in his early years, also attended some evening classes in England to develop more confidence. "Over the years he evolved his own unique style," she says.

Emergency and beyond

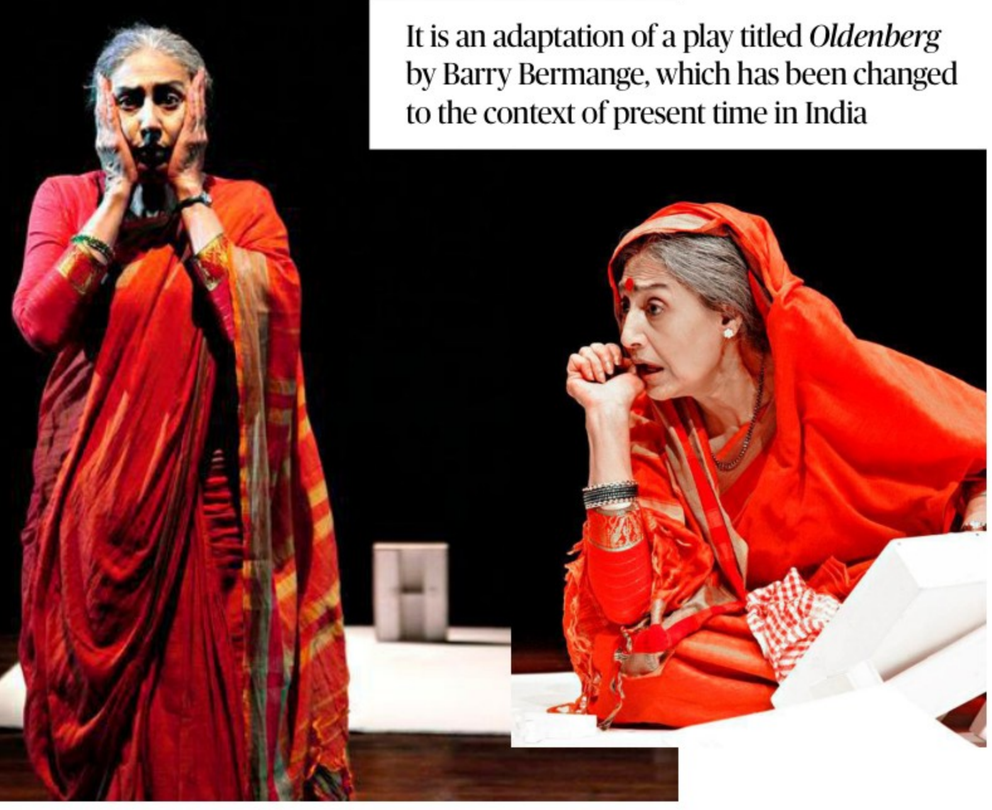
One of the most iconic sketches of Abu is this: an image of former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed wallowing in a bathtub, hurriedly signing the declaration of Emergency from there. Merely six years after he returned to India in 1969, going on to work at *The Indian Express*, he found himself documenting this period, some of the darkest days of Indian democracy. "He followed the Congress party and Mrs. Gandhi's era till her defeat and re-election," she says. He continued to travel and sketch prolifically in India, accompanying journalists when they went reporting, serving as a member of the Rajya Sabha, and capturing other significant events of Indian politics. He also went on to author several books, such as *Games of the Emergency* (1977), *Abu on Bangladesh* (1972), *Private View* (1974) and *Arrivals and Departures* (1983) and started a strip cartoon, *Salt and Pepper*, which ran for nearly 20 years in various publications. "He had a tremendous sense of observation, and so he was able to replicate the character of every person he sketched," she says.

Abu's World, a selection of sketches and drawings of Abu Abraham, will be held at the Indian Cartoon Gallery between August 3 and 31. The exhibition is open to all. For more details, call 080 4175 8540.


WITH YOUR MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND MY MILITARY-ISLAMIC COMPLEX, WE CAN MAKE THE WORLD TRULY SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY
REFERENDUM

Ranga Shankara's powerful play 'Apne Ghar Jaisa' is set for its 25th show

It is an adaptation of a play titled *Oldenberg* by Barry Bermange, which has been changed to the context of present time in India



Padmavati Rao from Apne Ghar Jaisa.

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Apne Ghar Jaisa, a play that opened at Ranga Shankara's annual festival in 2022, is gearing up to perform its milestone 25th show on August 4, at the same venue.

Adapted and directed by senior theatre maker Anmol Vellani, the Hindi play "creates an image of everyday bigotry and its potential to impoverish the self and tear apart the social fabric. The play talks about how in an extremely diverse and stratified society, people learn to be tolerant and accommodating, but they can also be instigated by public discord or personal tragedy, for instance into giving vent to often subliminal prejudices and irrational fears," as the brochure of the play puts it.

Loss and grief

The protagonist, performed by film and theatre actor Padmavati Rao, in the play finds, all kinds of reasons for turning away an unwelcome guest, performed by Abhitej Gupta, not only to protect her identity but also to cope with loss and grief. "In the process, she enters a dark place within herself, constructs caricatures of people 'not like us', and destroys the very thing she most cherishes and wants to preserve."

Apne Ghar Jaisa is an adaptation of a play titled *Oldenberg* by English actor and writer Barry Bermange, that has been changed to the context of present time in India. The Tamil version of the play was presented at the Serendipity Arts Festival in 2019 at Goa, titled *Please Feel at Home*.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Anmol Vellani said, "I am feeling great that the show is completing a milestone, and I feel it can have a much longer run. When I did the original English play back in college, there was a full set, which we created using cigarette boxes because we could not afford to spend on the set. The play was not really relevant to India, it was about a couple's fear of a foreigner. So when I made the play in Tamil and Hindi, I decided to remove the character of the husband, and decided to make it a solo performance with miniature sets. There were more possibilities of showcasing prejudices and it gave a push to the play."

Padmavati Rao says she is in delighted that a play with such an important subject has come so far and is performing its 25th show. "When I was asked to do this play, I asked the director what the play was about. I was told that this was about a woman who is supposed to meet a prospective tenant and her imagination of him/her. I was left with this one line and what can come off it. I was intrigued and unsure. But I said let's do this."

Clean lifestyle

At the age of 60, Padmavati performs the hour-long play without a break and says a clean lifestyle has been the secret of her energy. "When my children were young, I had to cook, and pack their bags and hardly had any time for myself. Between film shoots and managing the house, all I could eat for breakfast was a banana in my car. Eventually I realised that a single fruit was enough for me to sustain long hours of work. I consume caffeine and sugar only when I crave it sometimes, not daily. This has been my routine for more than two decades now, and that might be the secret behind my energy," she adds.

With shows at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., tickets for the shows are available on BookMyShow and at the Ranga Shankara box-office.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 2, 1974

Bangalore Varsity Curbs on LLB

Bangalore, August 1: Bangalore University has restricted this year the number of seats in the first LLB course to 150 in each of the four law colleges in the city (three private and one Government). According to one of the private colleges, this number is "ridiculously small" though it is conceded that law colleges cannot be allowed to continue uncontrolled in regard to admission, the number of seats should bear some relation to the demand for admission to the LLB, course and to the availability of basic facilities like accommodation, competent teaching staff and good library. The University authorities however, feel that law colleges have become unwieldy. According to a member of the University Committee, which went into the question of legal education, some of the private colleges are making indiscriminate admissions.

Arrears of Water Charges

Mangalore, August 1: Serious concern was expressed by Municipal Councillors at the large amounts of water charges in arrears from different Government officers to the Municipality and they decided at a meeting of the Council here that urgent steps to be taken for recovery of the same by appropriate action in accordance with the water supply Bye-laws.

The arrears of water charges in respect of Government building occupied by various Government officers and under the Executive Engineer, PWD, South Kanara Division, came to Rs. 1,62,725.45 that of police quarters to Rs. 12,722.25 and Government officers quarters at Dareball and Hathill to Rs. 39,256.85.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Shepherd India convention in Belagavi

The ninth national convention of Shepherds India International was held in Bengalavi on October 2 and 3, 2023, with delegates participating from across the country. Established in 2014, the aim is to unify the Kuruba community and formulate and implement programmes to encourage the community's economic, socio and political activities.

Informal farm economy of State

The shepherding communities of North Karnataka have their own unique economy. Many of the sheep rearers are also members of village cooperative societies.
There are an estimated 5,000 such societies in the Deccan, most of them in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Most are into collecting deposits and lending.

Distress sale of cattle during summer

Summers in Karnataka especially the month of March, 2024, saw distressed sell of cattle due to drought situations and increased fodder prices. Considering the situation many farmers decided to sell away their cattle at the weekly markets than see them starve to death. Almost 80 per-cent of the Karnataka taluks faced draught situation.

Guns to nomadic shepherds

On July 19, 2024, Siddaramaiah held a meeting with the district commissioners where it was decided that guns would be issued to nomadic shepherds for their safety during grazing in the forest areas. However, the decision invited widespread criticism from experts that it could violate the Wildlife Protection Act and can also lead to poaching.

A range of products and services

The sheep of the Deccan produce a range of products and services. The most important, but least regarded is manure and tillage. Farmers welcome shepherds and their flocks onto their fields during the fallow period, as the sheep eat weeds and other vegetation, and leave behind manure and urine that fertilizes the soil. This process is called penning.

A cowherd on call

Sharanappa gathers cows from villagers and grazes them on the fields in fallow season, making a win-win situation for all those involved

Cows sheltered to provide manure in a paddy field at Anegundi in Koppal district. K..BHAGYA PRAKASH

K.Bhagya Prakash
ANEGUNDI (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT)

Nomadic shepherds are a common sight in the north Karnataka districts such as Belagavi, Bagalkot, Koppal, Dharwad and Haveri. They move with their flock for between three to nine months a year. Farmers are happy to host the shepherds and their flocks on their fields during the fallow period, as they have a symbiotic relationship. The sheep eat weeds and other vegetation, and leave behind manure that fertilises the soil. The shepherd gets paid, in what is a clear win-win situation.

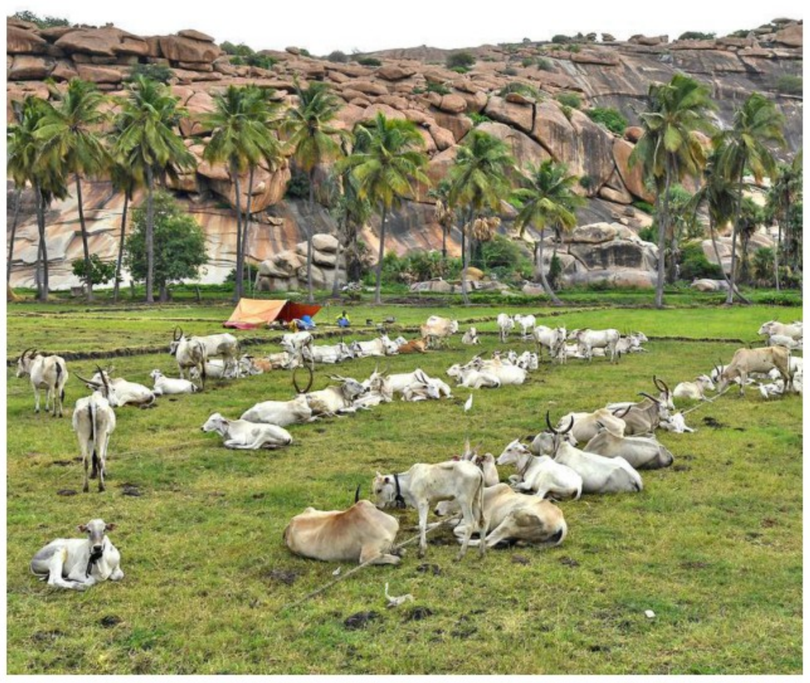
But 55-year-old Sharanappa is seen in Anegundi Vijayanagara district with a big herd of cattle on a field. He has adopted the idea of nomadic shepards, but has replaced sheep with cows and created his own business model.

Saranappa, along with his son, collects cows from the people he knows in the village and takes them to different paddy fields around, and stays there for as long as the land owner wishes, charging ₹1,000 per day. The owner of the cow/cows will have to come in the evening to milk them if they want to, or else Saranappa offers to milk them himself and supply it to nearby milk cooperative societies, hotels or retail shops, giving a cut to the owner. When *The Hindu* caught up with him, Saranappa had more than 50 cows of different satisfied owners who trust him and are relieved of the problem of grazing them.

At a time when dairy farmers in Karnataka are finding it hard to sustain themselves amidst escalating input costs, despite the government giving subsidies, insurance, medical facilities etc., Saranappa's innovation stands out. He says his success has inspired many people to take up this job.

Not that his job is easy. He lists out many professional hazards such as when cows give birth and owners expect him to take care of everything. He says even charging mobile phone is not easy, and he has to depend on some generous nearby house or shop owner. But there are pluses too. He says he likes to cook for himself and spend time watching news or a movie on his phone. Sharanappa prefers to stay near a pond, so that bathing is no hassle.

Sharanappa says with a laugh that people often pejoratively say "*dana kaayi* " (graze a cow) to suggest that one is good for nothing, but his own case proves that there is room for innovation in the business of cow herding too.



What early warning did Kerala have?

In response to a calling attention motion on Wayanad landslides in Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah makes several claims on early warning systems in India and how they are utilised to alert the Kerala government ahead of the tragedy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In his response to a calling attention motion on Wayanad landslides in Parliament on Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah made several claims on early warning systems in India and how they were utilised to alert the Kerala government ahead of the tragedy.

"On July 18, an early warning was issued saying that Kerala will receive more than normal rainfall in western coastal area. On July 23, it was reframed to very heavy rainfall. On July 25, the warning was made more specific to 'heavy to very heavy' rainfall," Mr. Shah said in the Lok Sabha.

Flash flood risk

An India Meteorological Department (IMD) press release dated July 18 issued on outlook for a flash flood risk in northern parts of Kerala, among other places, until 11.30 a.m. on July 19. The extended range forecast, also issued on the same day for July 18-31, carried no mention of Kerala for the period, however.

An IMD press release published on July 23 warned of "very heavy rainfall at isolated places" in Kerala and Mahe on July 25 (suggesting action), and heavy rainfall over isolated/some places in Kerala and Mahe from July 23-27.

The visual sub-division-wise weather warnings under this forecast carried an orange alert for Kerala for July 25 and a yellow "watch" alert for July 23, 24, 26, and 27. A yellow alert doesn't specifically call for action.

The press release published on July 25 said "scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning [was] very likely over Kerala and Mahe (and other places) over the next five days", and heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe from July 25-29. Visual warnings, as depicted on maps, also showed a yellow alert for Kerala.

The extended range forecast for July 25 to August 7 predicted "scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning very likely over Kerala and Mahe [and other places], as well as heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places during the week".

Orange alert

The July 29 press release by IMD issued an orange alert for very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe on July 29. The landslides occurred in the early hours of July 30.

A red alert for July 30 was issued in the press release published at 1.10 p.m., after the landslides had occurred. This press release also carried an orange alert for Kerala and Mahe for July 31 and August 1.

The Agricultural Meteorology Division of IMD, Pune, or Agromet, issued a forecast on July 26 for Wayanad predicting 15 mm of rain in the district on July 30, the day when the landslides occurred after extremely heavy rainfall. Fifteen millimetre of rainfall is not cause for worry, according to the IMD's categorisation.

Above normal rain

In its extended range forecast issued on July 25, the IMD's Meteorological Centre in Thiruvananthapuram predicted "cumulative above normal rainfall" for Kerala from July 26 to August 1, but did not raise any alarms or issue any warnings.

The August 2-8 period was predicted to bring normal rainfall to the State.

The district rainfall forecast issued by the Thiruvananthapuram Met Centre on July 26 predicted "light to moderate" rainfall for Wayanad district on July 30.

No warning from IMD

Mr. Shah also said in the Rajya Sabha that an early warning for rainfall of more than 20 cm and possible landslide was issued to Kerala on July 26. The IMD press release published on the day carried no such warning. As in the previous editions, it carried a 'yellow' watch alert under visual sub-division-wise weather warnings.

After Mr. Shah's remarks, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan also said that the forecasts issued by the IMD, the Geological Survey of India (responsible for issuing alerts related to landslides), and the Central Water Commission (for issuing alerts on river-related floods) were off the mark.

Not in public domain

Mr. Vijayan also shared an image titled "Experimental Rainfall Induced Landslide Forecast Bulletin" for Wayanad district, issued on July 29 for two days. The bulletin predicted a "low possibility" of occurrences of landslides.

This information is not available in the public domain.

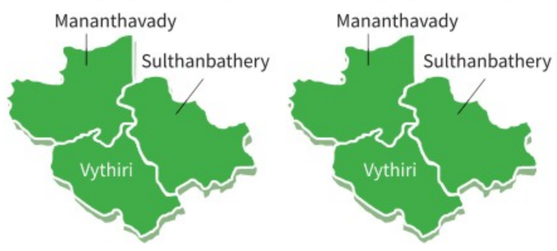
Mr. Shah also said in the Lok Sabha that "before 2014, there was only one way to respond to disasters – relief and rehabilitation." This is incorrect. India set up the National Monsoon Mission in 2012 (now called the 'Monsoon Mission' or MM) to improve India's monsoon prediction capabilities. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the first phase of MM, called MM-I, was completed successfully in 2017.

MM-II began in September 2017 to focus on "predicting weather/climate extremes and development of climatic applications based on monsoon forecasts, especially in the field of agriculture, hydrology and energy sector, while continuing model development activities".

MM-II is a part of Atmosphere and Climate Research – Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS). The Budget allocation for ACROSS plummeted in 2024 by ₹50 crore.

Sparring over forecasts

The landslide forecast bulletin issued for the Wayanad district on July 29 predicted low possibility of occurrences of landslides


Day 1: (valid from July 29, 2024 14:30 to July 30, 2024 14:30)
Mananthavady
Sulthanbathery
Vythiri
Day 2: (valid from July 30, 2024 14:30 to July 31, 2024 14:30)
Mananthavady
Sulthanbathery
Vythiri

Forecast level	Description
Very high	**Very high possibility** of occurrences of landslides in **many locations (widespread)**
High	**High possibility** of occurrences of landslides in **one or many locations (localised)**
Moderate	**Moderate possibility** of occurrences of landslides. Isolated landslide events may occur.
Low	**Low possibility** of occurrences of landslides, a **few small landslides may occur**

Army moved materials and men from far and wide

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

It was around 4.30 a.m. on Tuesday that the Indian Army's senior officers in Chennai received the first call about two landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district. Within a few hours, the headquarters of the Army's Dakshin Bharat area in Chennai put together a comprehensive rescue and relief plan and mobilised personnel, sniffer dogs and equipment from as far as Delhi and Meerut.

"We were able to move our personnel within a few hours of receiving information," a senior Army officer told *The Hindu*. By 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, personnel of the 122 Battalion of the Territorial Army were at the site. Reinforcements were sent in following their inputs.

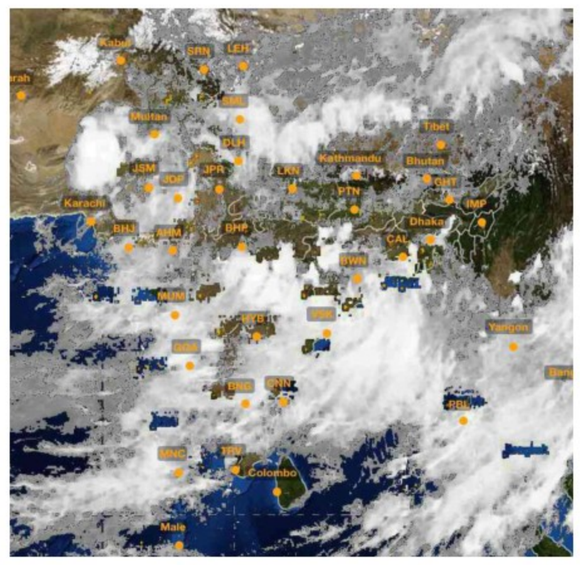
Personnel from the Madras Engineer Group moved Bailey bridge parts from Bengaluru and reached the area by 2 a.m. on Wednesday, an officer said. "As the Bailey bridges from Bengaluru could be used only in limited stretches, bridge components were flown in from Delhi."

It took about 25 vehicles to move the components of the bridges to the site. "There were challenges. There was no electricity, it was raining and trucks with men and equipment had to negotiate a challenging terrain in the dark."

As of Thursday afternoon, over 470 Army personnel were involved in the rescue efforts, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	12	27.6	25.2	Kozhikode	38	28.6	23.6
Ahmedabad	14.6	31.7	26.1	Kurnool	6	34.0	25.3
Aizawl	22	28.5	22.7	Lucknow	56	34.7	25.5
Allahabad	7	36.6	27.3	Madurai	—	40.6	25.1
Bengaluru	—	27.0	20.0	Mangaluru	54.8	26.4	23.4
Bhopal	22	26.5	24.6	Mumbai	2	31.4	26.1
Bhubaneswar	1.1	29.6	26.6	Mysuru	5	26.6	20.0
Chandigarh	23.8	32.6	25.6	New Delhi	107.6	33.4	24.3
Chennai	—	36.9	29.1	Patna	2.1	34.3	26.2
Coimbatore	0.4	31.2	22.5	Port Blair	7	30.1	25.4
Dehradun	172	33.0	23.6	Puducherry	0.1	37.6	27.2
Gangtok	9	24.0	18.8	Pune	3	29.0	24.2
Goa	121	27.5	24.5	Raipur	34	—	25.0
Guwahati	5	34.5	27.2	Ranchi	46	29.4	23.0
Hubballi	—	26.0	23.0	Shillong	0.2	24.0	18.0
Hyderabad	—	30.3	25.0	Shimla	—	26.3	19.5
Imphal	32.8	29.1	22.9	Srinagar	—	27.8	23.2
Jaipur	156	28.0	23.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.6	24.0
Kochi	11	29.6	24.0	Tiruchi	—	37.9	26.4
Kohima	—	28.4	17.6	Vijayawada	3	33.1	26.7
Kolkata	25	29.6	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	27.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	..28	60	 53	75	
Bengaluru	.14	..36	80	 37	66	
Chennai	...2	7	62	... 136	...116	
Delhi	..—	..11	20	... 216	33	
Hyderabad	.13	..22	37	 56	68	
Kolkata	...9	..72	19	 42	43	
Lucknow	.15	..26	57	 35	56	
Mumbai	.32	..17	..8	 36	93	
Pune	...7	..28	65	 37	32	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..41	21	 47	...100	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 167 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka Chief Minister calls Supreme Court ruling on internal quota for SC/STs 'historic'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday called the Supreme Court's ruling on internal reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as "historic" and said that a major obstacle in the implementation of internal reservation had been removed following the verdict.

Taking to social media platform X, the Chief Minister said, "The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the authority of the State governments to identify and provide internal reservations for the most backward classes among the Scheduled Castes is a historic one. I wholeheartedly welcome this judgment."

Siddaramaiah

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that States are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, that form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and economically more backward. The issue of internal reservation has been a contentious one in Karnataka, with the Left and Right sections of Scheduled Castes divided on the issue.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "With the Supreme Court's verdict, a major obstacle in the implementation of internal reservation has been removed. We will consult with Scheduled Caste leaders and legal experts regarding the contentious aspects of the verdict, including the issue of the creamy layer, and take appropriate action."

He further said the Congress was committed to providing internal reservation within the Scheduled Castes. "Our government is committed to implementing the report of the committee chaired by Justice A.J. Sadashiva, which was set up by the Congress, as promised in our last Assembly election manifesto," he said.

He also referred to the previous BJP government, before the Assembly election, "hurriedly" making a decision on internal reservation and sending it to the Central government. "Despite the Usha Mehra Committee, set up by the Central government, clearly stating that internal reservations within the Scheduled Castes could be implemented through a constitutional amendment, the Central government has so far failed to take any decision and has pushed it aside," he said.

"In the light of the current Supreme Court decision, the State government will thoroughly study the recommendations of the Justice A.J. Sadashiva Committee. If necessary, considering recent developments, a clear decision regarding internal reservation will be taken through consultation and negotiation," he said.

BJP's 'like-minded' leaders to visit Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The undercurrent of dissidence in the Opposition BJP appears to be gaining momentum again as disgruntled leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Thursday announced that a delegation of like-minded leaders will visit Delhi to complain against the party's State leadership.

Mr. Yatnal, who held a meeting with other leaders Ramesh Jarkiholi, Kumar Bangarappa, and Pratap Simha in Bengaluru, told presspersons that many BJP leaders were not happy with the way the organisation was being managed.

Continuing to attack State president B.Y. Vijayendra and his father, B.S. Yediyurappa, he alleged they had caused damage to the party in the Lok Sabha polls by not taking prominent leaders into confidence. He further alleged that a majority of the State office-bearers were those having loyalty to the father-son duo.

He said the like-minded leaders would meet in Bengaluru soon to hold deliberations before planning a Delhi visit to meet the central leaders.

Mr. Yatnal had attacked Mr. Vijayendra and Mr. Yediyurappa even in the recently concluded legislature session and asked party leaders to come out out of their grip.

4 years since Pettimudy landslip, kin waiting for Central aid

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

Even after four years since the Pettimudy landslip near Munnar on August 6, 2020 that killed 70 people, the financial assistance of ₹2 lakh announced by the Union government has not reached the families of the victims.

The Kerala government announced an assistance of ₹5 lakh each for the kin of those who died in the landslip in the area under the Kanan Devan Hills Plantations (KDHP). The Tamil Nadu government announced ₹3 lakh each and the Union government ₹2 lakh each. However, four years since the tragedy, the kin of the victims say they are yet to receive the assistance announced by the Centre.

Shanmuganathan who lost two sons in the landslip says, "We received the financial aid announced by the Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments. Despite repeated attempts, we have not got the Central assistance."

Rejimon, a resident of Pettimudy, lost his mother in the landslip. "We have not yet received any assistance from the Centre," says Mr. Rejimon.

According to sources in the Revenue Department, after the landslip, the Union government authorities sought details of the kin of the victims. "The taluk officials submitted all the details, including bank account information. But no further update has yet been received in Devikulam taluk, and the kin say that they have not yet got the money," says a source.

THG Publishing Pvt. Limited and R.V. University sign MoU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between THG Publishing Private Limited (by its division STEP from The Hindu Group) and R.V. University, governed by Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust) to organise STEP (Standardised Test for English Proficiency), a learning programme to students of R.V. University and implement them from August.

English programme

The STEP is an English language testing, training and certification programme launched by The Hindu Group in 2016 to make high-quality English language learning economical and accessible to all by using advanced technology and world-class training practices.

Sahana D. Gowda, Registrar of R.V. University, said they were happy to sign the MoU and introduce the STEP learning programme to the students in the School of Computer Science and Engineering.

STEP would be an ability enhancement for the students on English communication and writing skills for their upcoming placements, Dr. Gowda added.

A.P. government to call tenders to remove Jagan's name on land survey stones

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government is all set to call for tenders to remove the logos of the previous government on land survey stones and replace the Pattadar Passbooks (Land titling book).

In an interaction with *The Hindu* on Thursday, R.P. Sisodia, Special Chief Secretary, Special Chief Secretary to Government (Land and DM, Registration and Stamps), Revenue, said: "The government will call for the tenders to replace the Pattadar Passbooks and land survey stones in the State."

There was a huge criticism of the former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for etching his name on survey stones and his photos on private land owners' Pattadar Passbooks. The YSRCP government, during its tenure, installed about 70 lakh marker stones and another 7 lakh stones remain unutilised. All these 77 lakh stones have the name of Mr. Jagan and hence, the State government has taken a decision to remove the name.

At the same time, the government issued more than 22 lakh Pattadar Passbooks to private land owners with a printed photo of Mr. Jagan. Now, all these 22 lakh Passbooks would be replaced.

The Revenue Department has prepared a specimen copy of the newly proposed Pattadar Passbook. On the top of the front side of cover page of the new passbook, there will be a script reading as follows, "Land ownership right document and Pattadar Passbook". At the middle of the front side of cover page, a logo of the Government of Andhra Pradesh will be printed. Below the logo, "Revenue Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh" will be printed. At the bottom of the page, "Welfare of farmers, farm labourers is the government's priority" will be printed. On the backside of the Passbook cover page, "India is great" will be printed.

The YSRCP government issued more than 22 lakh Pattadar Passbooks to private land owners with a photo of Jagan printed on it

On the other hand, the NDA government, in its first Assembly session, repealed the A.P. Land Titling Act brought by Mr. Jagan.

It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, in the run up to the elections, promised that he would erase the name of Mr. Jagan on the land survey stones, replace the Pattadar Passbooks and repeal the A.P. Land Titling Act brought by the YSRCP government.

BRS Gadwal MLA wants to continue in Congress

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA of Gadwal, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy, who joined the Congress last month and announced his return to the BRS a couple of days back, has once again expressed his desire to continue in the Congress.

This comes after a dinner meet of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday with the BRS MLAs who joined the Congress.

So far, 10 BRS MLAs have joined the Congress. Of them, Mr. Krishnamohan Reddy was the first to have returned to BRS and now taken another U-turn.

Private consultation

Government's gatekeeping of critical debates hurts trust in policymaking

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has reportedly been holding closed-door meetings with the broadcasting and entertainment industry regarding the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, and while a draft was circulated last year, subsequent editions are only being given to a few select stakeholders – under strict terms of confidentiality. Each copy of the newest draft has been provided with a unique watermark that can identify "leaks", if any. Public consultations are an integral part of making laws that affect many Indians, a fact that was recognised by the government's 2014 Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, which recommends extensive public outreach before lawmaking. While the government circulated the earlier version of the Bill to the public, it seems to have insisted on withholding responses, and has chosen to take just a few stakeholders into confidence. This approach ignores online creators, large parts of the media industry, and civil society – the very stakeholders who have the most to be concerned about with media regulation. The Bill would expand an already comprehensive regulatory framework that has been criticised as having a chilling effect, discouraging free expression in a range of media spanning news and entertainment. This has been evident, for instance, in the toning down of OTT streaming platforms' content since the passage of the IT Rules, 2021.

Cast in that light, the omission of meaningful public consultation – a growing problem in much of policymaking across Ministries – may be less a sin of omission and more a deliberate strategy of gatekeeping major policy changes, and deciding who gets to have a say in them. While the individual laws that are being deliberated in this way may be concerning, the process in and of itself is cause for significant alarm. When it comes to media regulation, for instance, the interests of established corporate stakeholders might not always coincide with those of the emerging crop of creators, independent commentators, social media users and independent journalists who are also likely to be impacted by the Broadcasting Bill. Without a right to know other stakeholders' points of view – let alone respond to them – the quality and sincerity of this proposal can only be deeply suspect. The government must cease methods of policymaking that may be quick and unfussy, but diminish public trust in their intent. Meaningful public consultation does not constrain the ability of lawmakers to proceed with their intended course of action in any case; all it does is to put diverse points of view across. Hurried and gate-kept consultations may well end up begetting flawed and exclusionary legislation.

Contested harvest

GM crops might not be perfect, but what matters is that they are useful

India's torturous saga on the fate of genetically modified food crop made another pit stop last week with a two-judge Bench, of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Sanjay Karol of the Supreme Court of India, delivering a split verdict on the question of allowing genetically modified (GM) mustard in farmer fields. As of today, the only GM seed permissible in India is cotton. The gain in cotton yield had prompted agricultural institutions, private and public, to develop GM seeds in food crops such as rice, wheat, tomato, brinjal and mustard though none has been released. These issues underpin the story of DMH-11, or Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11, that was developed under a publicly funded project at the Delhi University's biotechnology department. The genes used in the plant make the crop suitable and lucrative to private seed companies for making newer hybrid varieties. For crops to be approved under India's agricultural system, they must be sown over three seasons in different agro-climatic zones and prove themselves to be consistently better than their existing comparators. Trials conducted over three years by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research suggest that DMH-11 passed these metrics. This led the GEAC, the scientific advisory body led by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to approve DMH-11 in October 2022, subject to certain tests. On the other hand, environmentalist groups have said that the DMH-11 is a 'herbicide tolerant' crop. It is genetically coded in a way that effectively forces farmers to use certain kinds of pesticide, with destructive environmental consequences; the allegations are that the developers were not transparent with this information. These findings, and the GEAC approval, have been contested in the Court by Aruna Rodrigues and the organisation, Gene Campaign.

The judges disagreed among themselves whether the GEAC was correct. Justice Nagarathna said that the GEAC had violated the 'precautionary principle', under which any new organism or modifying technology should, by default, be caged in unless its consequences are deliberated upon. Justice Karol, however, appeared to be satisfied by the process. Therefore, the case passes on to a larger Bench led by the Chief Justice of India. However, the most significant decision was a Court order to the Centre to evolve a policy on GM crops. The dispute over GM crops is fundamentally ideological and less on the traditional agricultural yardsticks of yield and farm economics. This is amplified by India's agricultural history where a panacea from yesteryears, hybrid seeds and synthetic fertilizer, while improving yields and productivity, have unleashed environmental harm. In their decisions, the Court and the government must remember that the good ought not to be seen as the enemy of the perfect.

A verdict on the Money Bill that India awaits

Suhrith Parthasarathy

an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

In the coming weeks, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India is slated to hear arguments over critical questions governing the contours of a Money Bill. The Court's ultimate ruling will have ramifications on a slew of legislation that has been enacted in recent years without the Rajya Sabha's approval.

At stake too in the case are the future of India's federal architecture and the various delicate balances on which the Constitution's divisions of power rest.

The reference to the seven-judge Bench emanates out of a verdict rendered in November 2019, in *Rojer Mathew vs South Indian Bank Ltd.*, in which the Finance Act, 2017, was under challenge. The Act, which was passed after its certification as a Money Bill, radically altered the authority and jurisdiction of 26 different tribunals. It abolished some of these bodies, merged together others, prescribed qualifications for appointment of members, and imposed various other stipulations, including conditions of service.

Articles and definitions

In *Rojer Mathew*, the petitioners argued that these changes were far too extensive to meet the criteria required of a Money Bill. Under India's constitutional structure, for a Bill to turn into law, it must obtain the sanction of both Houses of Parliament. The only exception, which is contained in Article 109, allows Money Bills to be enacted as law with only the Lok Sabha's approval. The Rajya Sabha may make recommendations on the Bill, but any suggestions from it would not bind the Lok Sabha in any way.

Article 110(1), which defines a Money Bill, creates a deeming fiction. It details a list of subjects, including the imposition or abolition of a tax; the regulation of the borrowing of money; the appropriation of cash out of the Consolidated Fund of India; and any matter "incidental" to the specified subjects. So long as a draft law contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters enlisted in the clause it would be deemed a Money Bill. Article 110(3) further makes it clear that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha shall have the final say in determining whether a proposed legislation is a Money Bill or not.

On a simple reading of the definition, it ought to be obvious that the use of the word "only" means that a Bill that has subjects in it which are more than merely attendant to those delineated in Article 110(1) can never qualify as a Money Bill. Yet, this is precisely what the Finance Act, 2017, sought to do.

> The Supreme Court of India's ruling will have bearing on legislation enacted without the Rajya Sabha's approval and the state of India's federal architecture

Usually, a Finance Act is passed at the beginning of every year to outline the state's fiscal plans. But here, the law made sweeping changes to the functioning of tribunals, invading, in the process, principles essential to the maintenance of the judiciary's independence. The law, quite apart from rearranging panels and bodies, also granted to the Union Executive a *carte blanche* to make rules on how the subsisting tribunals were to be administered.

There is no doubt that the Finance Act had elements in it that touched on subjects contained in Article 110(1). For example, the law determined salaries payable to members of tribunals out of the Consolidated Fund of India. Those clauses could be attributable to items which would ordinarily be termed a Money Bill. But, for the most part, the legislation made amendments to substantive laws, and encroached into areas well beyond the subjects enlisted in Article 110(1).

A colourable exercise of power

In many ways, the Court's job in *Rojer Mathew* ought to have been simple enough. After all, under no circumstances could changes through a Money Bill to terms of office, or the conferral on the executive of unbridled power to regulate tribunals through delegated legislation, or the incorporation of provisions on qualifications for appointment through a Money Bill be seen as anything but an act of subterfuge. It was, therefore, plainly evident that the Finance Act, 2017, was a colourable exercise of power. The Constitution's plain language had been perverted with a view to defeating its basic thrust.

Still, the majority on the five-judge Bench saw itself constrained by prior precedent. It found that a coordinate Bench, in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* (2018) (where the validity of the Aadhaar regime was challenged), had failed to provide sufficiently clear bright-line rules on the standards to be employed in reviewing a Speaker's decision to certify a draft law as a Money Bill. In particular, the effect of the word "only" in Article 110(1), the Bench said, had been overlooked in *K.S. Puttaswamy*.

Justice A.K. Sikri, who wrote the majority opinion there, concluded that because Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act concerned subsidies, benefits and services, for which expenditure was to be incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India, the law met the conditions of a Money Bill. What he failed to account for was the veritable welter contained in the other provisions of the statute. These ranged from enrolment to the scheme based on demographic and biometric information and the obtaining of consent from individuals before information was collected, to the creation of offences and penalties and the establishment of a statutory authority to administer the process.

Properly construed, these matters could scarcely be seen as incidental to the subjects in Article 110(1). It now falls within the remit of the seven-judge Bench to consider the implications of the word "only". Any decision from it will have enormous consequences. This is because both before and since the reference in *Rojer Mathew*, there have been other instances where the Rajya Sabha has been bypassed.

Notably, the Finance Act, 2019, made far-reaching amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) through a Money Bill. The changes made included alterations to the definition of what constitutes "proceeds of crime" and a bestowal on the Enforcement Directorate of draconian powers of arrest, attachment, and search and seizure. The Supreme Court upheld many of these amendments, in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India* (2022), but kept open the question of whether the amendments could have been validly made through a Money Bill.

The role of the Upper House

Any ruling from the seven-judge Bench is, therefore, likely to carry considerable purport. But beyond the laws on which it will have an impact, there is, as Justice D.Y. Chandrachud pointed out in his concurring opinion in *Rojer Mathew*, something far deeper at peril: the role of the Upper House in acting as a mirror to the pluralism that our nation represents.

"[The Rajya Sabha] is an indispensable constitutive unit of the federal backbone of the Constitution," Justice Chandrachud wrote. "Potential differences between the two houses of the Parliament cannot be resolved by simply ignoring the Rajya Sabha. In a federal polity such as ours, the efficacy of a constitutional body created to subserve the purpose of a deliberate dialogue, cannot be defeated by immunising from judicial review the decision of the Speaker to certify a Bill as a Money Bill."

Money Bills are a means of ensuring that the Rajya Sabha does not scuttle the efforts of the government of the day to access the treasury for basic administration. To use the measure as a tool to circumvent the Council's role in serving as a check on the state's legislative function amounts to playing a ruse on the Constitution. Should the Court allow this practice to go unchecked, it might well endanger the foundations on which our democracy stands.

Propelling the U.K. and India story

Richard McCallum

CEO, UK India Business Council

Two democracies, two elections and two path-breaking results. In June this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the second leader in Indian history to win a third consecutive term. In July, the Labour Party under Sir Keir Starmer achieved a landslide victory in the United Kingdom. This is a new chapter of the U.K.-India partnership.

There are positive signals in the U.K. Government's engagement with India. The Labour Party has pledged to pursue a "new strategic partnership" with India. As part of this, we are eager to see a swift conclusion of the U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and deeper cooperation on security, technology, climate change, and education. It is good to see the U.K.'s Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, David Lammy, visit India within a month of taking office.

The '2030 Roadmap' has delivered. Bilateral trade stood at £39 billion in 2023. Both countries are investing significantly in each other's economies, employing around eight lakh people between both countries currently.

However, we call on both governments to agree on a new Roadmap to 2047 to unlock the full benefits of this partnership.

India matters and it matters now

India's global position is undisputed. Its immensely successful G-20 Presidency in 2023, remarkable moon landing, primacy in digital public infrastructure, and soon-to-be the world's third largest economy are testament to this. The organisation I lead, the U.K. India Business Council, is on a mission to help the U.K. and its companies understand this better and update how they see the Indian opportunity. India is not simply a market but a strategic partner – part of our research and development (R&D) chain, technology chain, talent chain and supply chain.

This is also a message we are conveying to the new government in the U.K., which must prioritise India and forge an equal economic partnership, creating jobs and prosperity in both countries. A swift FTA would be a game changer – it is the foundation of a new structure we can build, and central to that structure is technology and R&D collaboration. India has the best return on investment (ROI) per dollar of R&D spend in the world – look at what the Indian Space Research Organisation has achieved. Equally, Indian firms are eager to work with U.K. companies and our world-class universities.

> The potential for a deeper U.K.-India economic partnership is vast, but this will require work from both nations

We can think big here. The two countries have a long-standing health-care partnership, successfully developing the life-saving malaria vaccines to address a global challenge. Can we enhance more U.K. clinical trials in India, share health-care research and support knowledge transfer?

The U.K. is investing to support innovative sustainability technology and British banks provide billions in climate financing to India. Our university members are collaborating with Indian industry to help develop talent for India and the world. And partnerships with Indian universities, through innovative Transnational Education routes, can help offer world-class higher education in India.

Key areas of alignment

Last year's landmark G2G agreement to collaborate on science and innovation points the way.

The U.K. and India are natural partners in defence and security.

The U.K. once provided most of India's defence equipment. Today, it has a mere 2.5% market share. India is focused on indigenisation, building reliable defence technology supply chains, securing access to critical technology, increasing exports, and creating domestic manufacturing jobs. The U.K.'s mature and sophisticated defence industry can support this mission. The successful visit to the U.K. by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in January 2024 (the first by a Defence Minister in 22 years), indicates that momentum is rising.

Mobility is another area where the two countries seamlessly align. Getting this right for students and skilled professionals is vital. It will impart trust and of mutual confidence, sending a strong message to Indian investors that the U.K. is welcoming. The U.K. has a positive story to tell on mobility. Over the last year, about 3,50,000 visas have been issued to Indian nationals for work, education or as dependants. We need to further champion this 'living bridge'.

Unlocking full potential

The ideas above are just the tip of the iceberg. The potential for a deeper U.K.-India economic partnership is vast – this will require work from both nations. In India, we would welcome further business environment reforms.

British companies are committed to manufacturing in India and welcome policies that help integrate India into their supply chains without impacting their efficiency. For example: a facilitative tariff and standards regime would help unlock significant inflows.

It is essential to have taxation policies and regulatory treatment that ensure parity and level-playing field across all investors.

British investors are keen to bring and co-create new Intellectual Property (IP) in India with Indian partners, if policies can provide adequate protection and commercial compensation for their IP.

Ease of doing business optimisations, such as shorter timelines for approvals and a more consistent, transparent approach across government departments, States and regulators for clearances, are also important.

We will continue working closely with both the governments to deepen the strong bilateral economic partnership that improves lives globally.

India is the most exciting economic story today. We are at the beginning of the Indian century, making it a great time to join forces for greater good.

Mr. Modi's statement, 'The more your friendship deepens with India, the more prosperity accrues to both', sets the tone for a shared future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The path ahead

Landslides in the Western Ghats are becoming a more frequent occurrence every monsoon season. And the losses for a densely populated State such as Kerala are severe. Experts are of the opinion that intense rainfall due to climate change and irrational land use change in the hills are exacerbating the crisis. But the authorities seem reluctant to act. It makes no sense to be indulging in a blame-game. Instead, more data-focused mitigation is the key. Forecasting models need to be more location specific. Soil parameters such as saturation and sliding tendencies also need to be mapped well.

Most landslide-prone regions in Kerala are plantations. So, it is best advised to incorporate AI-technologies in farming practices that will provide data on soil conditions during heavy rain. This can be correlated with rainfall data.

S.S. Dev,
Kochi, Kerala

We should ask what aggravated the landslides more than what caused them. Unchecked construction, quarrying and monocropping, and unregulated tourism have denuded forest cover and added to the ecological and geological fragility of the Western Ghats. Or so the experts say. The disaster is a clear case of nature retaliating with force and fury when it is harmed. The lesson to learn is that environmental concerns should take precedence over economic growth and revenue generation.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Politicising everything does not yield anything, especially at a time when there is a huge tragedy. Wayanad is a stern warning with lessons that cannot be ignored.

M. Pradyu,
Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

Anshuman Gaekwad

Anshuman Gaekwad was a thorough gentleman who played the game with a straight bat. His association with cricket was not just as a player but as a coach and selector as well.

Devendra Khurana,
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Daring Gaekwad belonged to an era of "no helmets" and "no limit on bouncers" bowled. He was a complete team man and a mixture of patience, perseverance and elegance.

P.V. Srinivas,
Secunderabad

Is the Centre being iniquitous in State transfers?

PARLEY

Pinaki Chakraborty

Visiting distinguished professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

R. Ramakumar

Professor, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Following the Union Budget, Opposition Chief Ministers have boycotted and walked out of the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by the Prime Minister alleging that the Centre is discriminating against non-NDA States. Is the Centre being iniquitous in State transfers? Pinaki Chakraborty and R. Ramakumar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Jasmin Nihalani**. Edited excerpts:

Do you think the opposition's concerns about bias in resource allocation are valid?

Pinaki Chakraborty: A couple of things need to be kept in mind when we talk about biases. Post-economic liberalisation, the Budget has substantially declined as a tool to allocate resources to States by the Union government. It is no longer a public sector scheme-based allocation that determines the resource flow to the States. However, this year's Budget speech devoted a significant amount of time about schemes for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. The fiscal implications of such schemes need to be assessed. In the context of aggregate resource flow to the States, I think the fiscal implication of such schemes is very limited.

R. Ramakumar: There are different types of transfers from the Centre to States: devolution of taxes, loans, finance commission grants and, non-finance commission grants, which are essentially discretionary grants. This is where the real problem lies. In discretionary grants, there are no criteria to decide on how much each State should get. Consequently, an element of arbitrariness creeps in, which is not healthy for the spirit of cooperative fiscal federalism.

If you look at the last 10 years, there were many announcements of packages made for selected States, coinciding with political developments, but no rationale was provided for these decisions and how the concerned amounts were arrived at. We see a continuation of this phenomenon in this Budget.

Critics say that the NITI Aayog which replaced the Planning Commission has been reduced to creating indices and ranking States, fostering competitive federalism. Do you think it should be given more powers?

PC: Abolition of the Planning Commission was done in a context. It was largely considered by most States, as an institution which was giving transfers and remained outside the transfer mechanism envisaged in the Constitution. So, the discussion about planning for development and transfers became a contentious issue. Greater flexibility to the States through untied resources was considered as an alternative. When devolution to the States was increased to 42%, the idea was they would have greater flexibility in planning because the flow of money was untied and due to increased devolution. Given the rise in inter- and intra-regional inequality, NITI Aayog can give capital grants through a consultative process with the States without introducing an element of rigidity as seen in centrally sponsored schemes (CSS).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the NITI Aayog meeting, at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, in New Delhi, on Saturday. ANI

RR: Earlier States had complaints about transfers determined by the Planning Commission as it was not a constitutional body. Yet it played an important role in using public investment to address regional inequalities and as an institutional interlocutor between the Centre and the States. So even if the States had complaints about transfers, there was at least a forum that they could engage with. This is no more the case with the NITI Aayog.

The National Development Council has also been disbanded. The NITI Aayog has no powers. It is a skeleton with no financial prowess; it is just a think tank with no powers of enforcement. Its powers have been transferred to the Ministry of Finance, which makes all the decisions on transfers outside the Finance Commission (FC) recommendations.

What we need is a new, credible body, which should not be seen as politically influenced, and as one where States can sit with the Centre and discuss matters professionally and transparently. Above all, all transfers outside the FC recommendations must be free from discretion and also be rule-based transfers.

On the distribution of Union tax resources among States, one side says that the States that contribute more should have a higher share while others say that distribution should be done to provide comparable levels of services across the country. What should the 16th FC do to allay the concerns of the States that perform better?

PC: Considering collection or origin as criteria for tax devolution cannot solve the issue. All the major taxes are collected in a few important business locations. Propagating such an argument will lead to large-scale increase in inequality in resource distribution.

> The NITI Aayog has no powers. It is a skeleton with no financial prowess; it is just a think tank with no powers of enforcement
> **R. RAMAKUMAR**

But if due to an increase in per capita income ranking, certain States witness a continuous decline in transfers and that creates challenges for their fiscal stability, then it needs to be addressed through a mechanism of grants.

Also, all State-specific needs may not be possible to address through a devolution formula as it is to address fiscal inequality. Per capita income always would get a very high weightage. And States with high incomes are not going to benefit because of that. So, if we have a State-specific need, I think the ideal way would be to provide grants. States should make a case for needs and challenges they have and how much money is required to address those challenges, with the FC.

RR: I agree that one devolution formula cannot be to the satisfaction of all the States. So, you need to use grants judiciously to ensure that post devolution differences across States are hammered out. The devolution share itself must also rise in the divisible pool to 50%.

The share of cesses and surcharges levied have significantly increased in the gross tax revenues. Should the revenue from them be shared with States or should the Centre reduce its reliance on them?

PC: Cesses and surcharges have only increased over time. But, the Constitution did not envisage its continuity. It is always said that they should be for a limited period. One reason for the increase is the proliferation of CSS.

RR: When the share of devolution from the net proceeds was raised from 32% to 42%, the Centre tried to compensate for the fall of its share in two ways. One, by raising cesses and surcharges, which are kept outside the net proceeds. Two, by changing the spending ratio in CSS schemes by thrusting 40% of the burden on the States.

If you add the total amount of cesses and surcharges collected by this government between 2015-16, and 2024-25, it cumulatively amounts to about ₹36 lakh crore. Not a paisa from this amount has been shared with the States in an untied format.

Cesses and surcharges are not unconstitutional, but they should be charged only for limited periods for specific purposes. However, many of them have continued over many years. Some were ended but rechristened under a different name from the next year. The other problem is that many cesses and surcharges were collected but only partly used for the purposes of their collection. So cesses must be limited in number and collected for a specific period. What the FC can do is increase the State's share in devolution from 41% to 50% because the Centre keeps all cesses and surcharges in full and does not devolve at all from its bounty of non-tax revenues like the dividends received from the RBI.

Kerala's FM argued that the revenue deficit grants for the State have decreased, the borrowing limit has been whittled down and State has lost revenues due to the fall in its share in the divisible pool.

PC: Revenue deficit grants are given to those States who as per FC assessment, have a deficit in their account, post tax devolution. If there is a gap even after devolution, the State becomes eligible for a revenue deficit. Coming to Kerala's borrowing limits, there is an asymmetry in borrowing power between the Centre and States. States have hard Budget constraints. However, State level hard Budget constraint is needed for macro stabilisation. Since macroeconomic stabilisation is a central function, the Union government also needs to reduce its deficit and debt. But saying that States and Centre should have symmetric and unrestricted borrowing power, is dangerous from the macro stability point of view. There has to be a restriction of Budget constraints at the State level. At what level is a different issue.

RR: Kerala faces a hard Budget constraint not because the State is fiscally irresponsible but because it has historically chosen to make critical investments in its social sector. This is why a State like Kerala would continue to need a revenue deficit grant. Many other States appear to be fiscally prudent and not needing a revenue deficit grant because they invest relatively less on the social sector. But such prudence is achieved at a social cost. On the other hand, Kerala has historically suffered in the devolution process. It must be compensated for its losses through grants. Revenue deficit grants is one type, and I hope the 16th FC continues it.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
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NOTEBOOK

The growing problem of restricted access

The space for journalists is being squeezed in Parliament and government functions

Vijaita Singh

Last month, as I sat down in the press gallery of the Rajya Sabha to cover Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech, I noticed two pairs of eyes watching all the journalists gathered there. Young security personnel in grey civvies were sitting on their haunches at the edge of the gallery, closely following our hand movements as we took down notes. Two others stood by their side. The men took turns to observe us. This was perhaps the first time, after parliament security was handed over to the Central Industrial Security Force, following a security breach in December 2023, that journalists were being subjected to such intense scrutiny in the press gallery. Security personnel were present in the press galleries of the old Parliament building too, but they would observe us from a distance. What has changed is the scale of deployment and level of scrutiny.

Entry into the press gallery has been heavily restricted since COVID-19. Only two people from one organisation are allowed into the premises. After legislative business moved to the new Parliament building last year, separate entries were consigned for journalists, officials, and Members of Parliament (MPs). This was not the case in the old Parliament building. Today, journalists are frisked four times and have to walk down a long windowless corridor dotted with security cameras in order to reach the gallery.

Earlier this week, TV journalists and camerapersons were confined to an air-conditioned glass enclosure. Their movement around Parliament, or Makar Dwar, was apparently causing inconvenience to the MPs. This happened days after farm leaders who had come to meet the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, in Parliament, spoke with reporters.

Some may ask why journalists need to be present in Parliament at all, as Sansad TV relays the proceedings live. But TV cameras cannot capture what journalists can: interactions, camaraderie, and banter in the House. Opposition members reach out to the Treasury benches and vice-versa, and members move from their designated seats to catch up with colleagues. All this gives us a glimpse of the bonhomie in Parliament and the various equations in the corridors of power.

On July 3, minutes before Mr. Modi was to begin his speech, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members requested Ministers belonging to the Janata Dal (United) and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), two of the BJP's key alliance partners, to move to the front row. The JD(U)'s Lallan Singh, who was sitting at the rear end, was requested to go to the front row, but he was reluctant to move. I noticed BJP Minister Ashwini Vaishnav hold Mr. Singh's hand and lead him to the front benches. Similarly, one of the BJP MPs offered a second-row seat to TDP Minister Ram Mohan Naidu. The idea, it seemed, was to show a united alliance.

It is not only Parliament that is squeezing the space accessible to journalists. At government functions, the refreshments corner, where reporters could meet officials for candid conversations, has also been blocked over the last decade. Usually, the Minister or the chief guest would interact with journalists in these corners after the function ended. Now, security personnel are stationed so that journalists do not dare enter the VIP enclosure. At one such function, a security personnel told me, "We have arranged tea and snacks for you at the other end." The suggestion that journalists attend events for "tea and snacks" spoke volumes about the perception of the media.

By cutting down access, politicians or the bureaucrats may heave a momentary sigh of relief; they will no longer have to be troubled by the questions posed by some journalists. However, democracies thrive and survive only when they have an inquisitive media landscape. As far as stories are concerned, they will never stop. Truth will find its way.

vijaita.singh@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Waves of glory

Brazil's Gabriel Medina reacts after getting a large wave in the 5th heat of the men's surfing round 3, during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, in Teahupo'o, on the French Polynesian Island of Tahiti, on Monday. AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 2, 1974

Magsaysay award for M.S. Subbulakshmi

Manila, Aug. 1: Srimathi M.S. Subbulakshmi was named winner of the 1974 Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service to-day. She was cited having performed "exalting rendition of devotional songs and magnanimous support of numerous public causes in India over four decades." The Magsaysay Foundation Board of Trustees said Srimathi Subbulakshmi was acknowledged as "the leading exponent of classical and semi-classical songs of the Carnatic tradition." She had raised more than $ one million for social causes with her singing of South Indian classical songs and Bhajans. "These contributions have benefited charitable foundations for the poor, hospitals, orphanages, school and music and journalism institutes," said the Award Committee. The award was the first of a series of annual Magsaysay Awards – named after the late Philippines President – to be given this week.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 2, 1924

Empire wireless scheme.

London, Aug. 1: The House of Commons to-day approved the agreement with Marconis, with reference to the construction of beam wireless stations for communication between Dominions Britain and India (see cable of 23rd July). Mr. Hartshorn said, it was understood an arrangement was being made with Australia and South Africa for erection of beam stations, as it was already arranged with Canada.

From Page One

States can sub-classify SCs for quotas: top court

The latter gave preferential quotas to Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs.

Chief Justice Chandrachud traced the power of these States to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes for the purpose of affirmative action, including reservations, to Articles 15(4) [prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, etc] and 16(5) [equal opportunity in public employment] of the Constitution.

'Not an indivisible monolith'

The Chief Justice agreed that the Scheduled Castes was not an "indivisible monolith". The "Scheduled Castes" notified by the President under Article 341(1) of the Constitution was composed of heterogeneous groups of castes, races or tribes with varying degrees of backwardness. Their inclusion in the President's List by Parliament under Article 341(2) did not mean they were a "uniform and internally homogenous unit" incapable of further sub-classification. "Article 341(2) does not create an integrated homogenous class. Historical and empirical evidence demonstrates that the Scheduled Castes are a socially heterogeneous class. Thus, the State in exercise of the power under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) can further classify the Scheduled Castes if there is a rational principle for differentiation and if the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

The court agreed that apprehensions of "potential political tinkering" by parties in power in States to expand vote banks cannot obviate the constitutional need for acknowledging and remedying *inter se* inequality among Scheduled Castes.

The court observed that the States, by addressing *inter se* disparity among Scheduled Castes on the basis of quantifiable data and providing more preferential treatment to a comparatively more downtrodden group within the class, did not interfere with Parliament's power under Article 341 (2) to make inclusions or exclusions in the Scheduled Castes List. They only work to promote "substantive equality".

Besides, States have to produce empirical data to support their claim that a sub-class requires more beneficial treatment.

The majority judgment overruled a 2005 verdict in the *E.V. Chinnaiah* case, which had held that sub-classification amounted to tinkering with the Presidential list by the State legislature, and was, therefore, violative of Article 341(2), which exclusively vests power in Parliament.

Fisherman dies in bid to evade arrest by S. Lanka

India summoned a senior Sri Lankan diplomat in New Delhi to register its "strong protest" over the incident, while leaders of the fishing community in Rameswaram demanded that the government register a murder case against Sri Lankan Navy personnel.

Confirming the development, Sri Lankan Navy spokesperson Captain Gayan Wickramasooriya told *The Hindu* that the fishermen had resorted to "aggressive manoeuvres" when the Navy patrol units attempted to apprehend their boat on charges of illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

"There were 10 to 15 Indian trawlers early this morning (August 1, 2024). When our patrol boat tried capturing one, the fishermen on board tried to escape. Their boat capsized, and the four fishermen fell into the sea. One was seriously injured and taken to the hospital in Pungudutivu [off Jaffna peninsula], where he died. One more fisherman is missing, a search operation is on. Two were rescued safely and are in our custody," he said.

The four fishermen have been identified as K. Malaisamy, 59, who has been declared dead and whose body has been handed over to Indian authorities in Jaffna; V. Ramachandran, 64, who is still missing; and M. Mookiah, 54, and R. Muthu Muniandi, 57, who have both been arrested and taken to Kankesanthurai for further investigation, according to the fishing community at Rameswaram from where the mechanised boat set out on Wednesday. Indian Consulate Officials in Jaffna have been instructed to immediately rush to Kankesanthurai and extend all possible assistance to the fishermen and their families.

The Ministry of External Affairs said it had summoned a senior Sri Lankan diplomat. "We expressed our shock and anguish at the unfortunate loss of life. Our High Commissioner in Colombo will also be raising the matter with the Sri Lankan government later today," the MEA statement said.

₹10 lakh to kin

After the news of the fisherman's death spread through the Rameswaram fishing community, an uneasy calm prevailed in the town and other pockets of the coastal district of Ramanathapuram. Ramanathapuram District Collector Simranjeet Singh Kahlon handed over a cheque for ₹10 lakh from the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the family members of the deceased Mr. Malaisamy.

According to Fisheries Department officials, 359 boats had taken the tokens from the Rameswaram jetty on Wednesday morning, and around 2,000 fishermen had ventured into the Palk Straits for fishing. By their account, the Sri Lankan Navy attacked the boat, belonging to Karthikeyan, on Wednesday night, and attempted to chase it mid-sea during which the fishermen had fallen out of the boat.

Leaders of the fishing community demanded that a murder case be registered.

4 dead as cloudbursts, flash floods wreak havoc in Himachal

49 missing in the State; Chief Minister urges people to stay away from rivers; PM directs officials to ensure all possible assistance to affected

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Heavy spell: A view of a flood-like situation arising after the water level of the Beas rose in heavy rain, in Mandi on Thursday. ANI

Four people were killed and 49 missing following multiple incidents of cloudburst in Shimla, Mandi, and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh, where torrential rain has left several rivers in a spate.

According to the State's Emergency Operation Centre, one person was injured and nine people were stranded at different places following incessant rain in different parts of the State.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who convened a meeting with government officers to take stock of the situation in Shimla, said, "Search and rescue operations are under way, and all resources have been pressed into action. We have sought help from the Army and Air Force. The State has suffered a huge loss."

"There's a possibility of heavy rain based on weather department forecast during the next 36 hours [Friday morning]. I appeal to people to stay away from rivers and rivulets," he said.

Thirty-three people went missing after a cloudburst led to a flash flood in the Samej area, near Jhakri hydro project (Rampur), in Shimla district in the early hours of Thursday. Seven persons went missing and three died near Tikkan Thalukot village in Mandi district. At Jaon village in Kullu district, one person was killed and nine people went missing, while 11 houses were washed away by the gushing waters, which also damaged two bridges.

A flash flood was reported at Malana village in Kullu. Nine persons were stranded near Charuru village in Kullu as water in the Beas swelled.

The National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, State Police, Home Guard, and fire service teams and administration officials have been deployed for search and rescue operations.

Shah assures help

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been monitoring the situation in Mandi. He has asked top officials to ensure all possible assistance to the affected, sources said.

Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke to Mr. Sukhu and assured him of all help from the Centre.

14 killed as heavy rain lashes Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN

Fourteen people died and 10 were injured in heavy rain that triggered flooding and a house collapse as rivers swelled in Uttarakhand, officials said here on Thursday. They said that the Kedarnath Yatra was suspended amid the inclement weather conditions as the heavy downpour triggered landslides at many places. PTI

India believes in development, not expansionism: Modi

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh. R.V. MOORTHY

India does not believe in "expansionism", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, indirectly referring to the Chinese activities in the South China Sea.

Welcoming Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Mr. Modi indirectly referred to China and highlighted the importance of freedom of navigation.

Speaking at the Indian Council of World Affairs, Mr. Minh Chinh echoed the Indian position on maritime security and called for a collective approach to solving all conflicts including in West Asia and Myanmar.

The Vietnamese leader recollected India's contribution to peace building in Vietnam in the 1950s and sought greater cooperation between the two sides in energy, defence, and culture.

"We support development, not expansionism in the region. We believe in a free, open, rule-based and prosperous Indo-Pacific," said Mr. Modi.

His remarks came days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in Tokyo, where India was joined by Australia, Japan, and the United States in "upholding freedom of navigation and overflight", an oblique reference to China's activities in the South China Sea.

Reflecting the Indian position, Mr. Minh Chinh said, "The two sides redoubled the importance of ensuring peace, stability, security, safety and freedom of navigation over the East China Sea and the South China Sea and a peaceful settlement of disputes based on respecting international law, especially UNCLOS 1982." He described India as a force of "stability and prosperity" in the Indo-Pacific region.

Years of bilateral ties

Mr. Minh Chinh paid tribute to the early years of the bilateral relation when India was the Chairman of the International Commission for Supervision and Control formed as part of the Geneva Accord of 1954 to help the peace process in Vietnam.

Vietnam, he said, is "deeply grateful" for the policy of non-alignment which was championed by India.

He urged for a collective approach for solving the intractable conflicts in the world and described the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a major platform in dealing with issues of development and dialogue.

Disaster Management Bill tabled in Lok Sabha

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Thursday introduced the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to create a "disaster database at national and State level" and makes provision for constitution of "Urban Disaster Management Authority" for State capitals and large cities having municipal corporations, except the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.

The database will include disaster assessment, fund allocation detail, expenditure, preparedness and mitigation plan, risk register according to type and severity of risk, and such other relevant matters, in accordance with such policy, as may be determined by the Union government.

The Bill empowers the National Disaster Management Authority and the State Disaster Management Authorities to prepare the disaster plan at national level and State level, respectively instead of the plans made by National Executive Committee and the State Executive Committees earlier.

The NDMA may also appoint experts and consultants as necessary to perform its functions.

Opposition members opposed the Bill as it creates several authorities and also encroaches upon the functions of the State governments.

Evolve policy to remove quota for SCs, STs in creamy layer, say judges

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

State must evolve a policy for identifying creamy layer even from the SCs, STs, said a judge.

A majority of four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday called for the need to evolve a "different" set of criteria to exclude the 'creamy layer' among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) from reservation benefits.

Justice B.R. Gavai explained that an SC/ST person would continue to be socially, economically, and educationally backward if he or she could only achieve the position of a peon or a sweeper through reservation. However, on the other hand, individuals who got quota benefits to reach the "high echelons of life" should be considered as belonging to the creamy layer as they had already "reached a stage where on their own accord they should walk out of the special provisions and give way to the deserving and needy".

"State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action... the criteria for exclusion of the creamy layer from SC/ST for the purpose of affirmative action could be different from the criteria as applicable to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs)," Justice Gavai, a member of the seven-judge Bench, held.

Justice Gavai, whose opinion formed the basis for a push to introduce the creamy layer principle for SC/ST categories, observed that the exclusion of the affluent from quota benefits would alone achieve real equality.

Justice Vikram Nath seconded the opinion of Justice Gavai.

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma agreed that "for the full realisation of substantive equality *inter se* the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the identification of the 'creamy layer' *qua* Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ought to become a constitutional imperative for the state".

NEET paper leak: CBI files first chargesheet against 13 accused

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday filed its first chargesheet against 13 accused in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), 2024 paper leak case in Patna.

The probe agency has so far arrested 40 persons, including several medical students, for their alleged involvement in the racket.

They accused have been identified by the agency as Nitish Kumar, Amit Anand, Sikander Yadvendu, Ashutosh Kumar-1, Roshan Kumar, Manish Prakash, Ashutosh Kumar-2, Akhilesh Kumar, Avdesh Kumar, Anurag Yadav, Abhishek Kumar, Shivnandan Kumar, and Ayush Raj.

The chargesheet has been submitted before a special court in Patna.

The agency has invoked Sections 120B, 201, 409, 380, 411, 420, and 109 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and substantive offences thereof against them.

The case was initially registered at Shastri Nagar police station in Patna on May 5, and later transferred to the CBI on June 23. "The CBI has utilised advanced forensic techniques, Artificial Intelligence technology, CCTV footages, mobile tower location analysis, etc. to gather evidence against the accused," said the agency.

Of the 40 persons arrested in the case so far, 15 were earlier held by the Bihar police.

The CBI has conducted searches at 58 locations till now. Some of the accused are currently in the agency's custody.

"As and when further investigation against these accused/ suspects is complete, supplementary chargesheet(s) will be filed," the CBI said.

Through a statement, the agency had earlier said: "Investigation has revealed that NEET (UG)-2024 question paper was illicitly accessed from Oasis School, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, on May 5, 2024."

More arrests likely

While the investigations are under way, the agency is still piecing together all the details related to the syndicate and its key masterminds. Some more arrests in the case are likely.

Court denies bail to former trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday denied anticipatory bail to former trainee Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Khedkar, accused of using fraudulent means to pass the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination.

The Delhi Police have booked Ms. Khedkar for fraudulently availing the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities to clear the Civil Services Examination.

As per a communique from the UPSC, she had also deceitfully availed attempts beyond the permissible limit under the examination rules by faking her identity.

Additional sessions judge Devender Kumar Jangala of the Patiala House Court denied anticipatory bail to Ms. Khedkar considering the fact that the allegations against her are grave and serious in nature which require thorough investigation.

"The conspiracy has been hatched in a preplanned manner. The conspiracy was executed by the applicant/accused in many years," the court said, noting that the present case could be only tip of the iceberg because if Ms. Khedkar can breach the scrutiny system of the complainant, why not others.

Rajnath urged to stop export of arms and ammunition to Israel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A group of 25 "concerned" citizens, which includes former judges, diplomats, activists, writers, and economists, has written to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, urging him to cancel licences for the export of arms and ammunition to Israel as it is in violation of India's commitment under international law and the constitutional mandate.

"We are writing to you as concerned citizens, alarmed at the continued grant of export licences and permissions to various Indian companies, for the supply of military arms and munitions to Israel, since the war on Gaza began. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has clearly ruled that Israel is in violation of obligations under the Genocide Convention and further that Israel is in illegal occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory," the group said in the letter dated July 30. The letter addressed to Mr. Singh was also marked to the Secretary, Defence Production and the Director-General, Foreign Trade.

In light of these rulings, any supply of military material to Israel would amount to a violation of India's obligations under international humanitarian law and the mandate of Article 21 read with Article 51(c) of the Constitution of India, the citizens noted.

APPEAL

Master Sadappa son of Lavappa 13 years admitted in Mazumdar Shah Medical Center is diagnosed with **Aplastic Anemia**. Aplastic Anemia is a condition that occurs when body stops producing enough new blood cells. The only curative treatment is Bone Marrow Transplant. Hence we are planning to use one of the parents as donor (Haplo Identical). The approximate cost estimation of the procedure is **Rs. 28,00,000/-.**

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/ D.D./M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Sadappa, **Our Account details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A.Puram, and IFSC Code: SBIN0001855. You can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI ID: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Save Poor Lives Registered Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. 044 42044165 & 044 35691848. Mobile: 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

MP seeks Rajya Sabha debate on Home affairs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Almost the entire Opposition has demanded that the Rajya Sabha hold a discussion on the functioning of the Union Home Ministry, which has a direct bearing on the State governments, with many issues that have overlapping areas of jurisdiction.

The YSR Congress Party and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi are the only Opposition parties which have not endorsed the demand.

The Biju Janata Dal joined the Opposition INDIA bloc in demanding the debate.

Trinamool Congress leader in the Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien, said, "I appeal to the Chair, please do not shy away from it. This is the Council of States and so many States have to deal with the Home Ministry. We want to speak to the Home Minister and want to hear from him."

The Trinamool had earlier raised the issue during Wednesday's Business Advisory Committee meeting, and wrote to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday.

Railways will soon add 2,500 general coaches, says Minister

Vaishnaw says long-term plan is to manufacture 10,000 additional general coaches to ease travel; adds that the Ministry now has necessary resources to roll out KAVACH train protection system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that the national transporter would add nearly 2,500 general coaches in the coming months.

Taking part in a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the demands for grants under the railway Budget, he said the ratio of general coaches, including sleeper and non-AC coaches, to AC coaches was almost 2:1. Approximately 2,500 additional general coaches would be manufactured in the coming months. Apart from this, nearly 10,000 additional general coaches would be produced in the foreseeable future, ensuring their smooth availability, he added.

During the discussion, he said the Railways was the lifeline of the country and a crucial organisation upon which the nation's economy depended. He urged Parliament to depoliticise Railways and focus on its improvement for the benefit of the country.

Key sector: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says additional general coaches will be built in the coming months. FILE PHOTO

Flaw detection tests

Mr. Vaishnaw stated that track failure, a prime reason for rail accidents, had been addressed. Over the past 10 years, 26,52,000 ultrasonic flaw detection tests had been conducted, and new technologies incorporated.

In 2013-14, there were around 2,500 rail fractures, but by 2024, these had decreased to 324, an 85% reduction, he said.

On the automatic train protection (ATP) mechanism, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to develop it in 2014, with KAVACH undergoing its first trials in 2016 and receiving the SIL-4 certification in 2019.

He added that in 2022, a 3,000-km project was initiated for the implementation of this system, and in 2024, version 4.0 of KAVACH was approved. He noted that there were currently three manufacturers of KAVACH, with two more being added. Additionally, 8,000 engineers had been trained. "We now have the necessary human resources and capabilities to roll out KAVACH on a large scale," he said.

Mr. Vaishnaw also said 50 Amrit Bharat trains would be added to the production line. A Vande Metro train, designed for a range of 150-200 km, is being tested.

He addressed the issue of unmanned railway crossings, noting that in 2019, there were 9,000 such crossings. This problem had now been resolved through the construction of rail overbridges, gates, and underpasses.

The Railway Minister said the stations now had control through electronic interlocking.

While only 837 stations had this technology between 2004 and 2014, a significant increase was seen in the next decade, with 2,964 stations covered from 2014 to 2024.

Cong. urges Dhankhar to amend ruling on RSS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar ruled that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has constitutional rights to participate in the development journey of the country, senior Congress leader and member of the Upper House Digvijaya Singh on Thursday wrote to him, requesting him to amend his ruling.

Mr. Singh argued that the RSS is an "unregistered" organisation, and urged Mr. Dhankhar to allow him to raise the issue on the floor of the House under a relevant rule of the Rajya Sabha.

"I would like to draw your attention to your observations where you have given an unregistered body the constitutional rights to intervene unabashedly in functioning of government at all levels," he added.

Separately, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, alleged that the organisation had a "a long history of corroding the sovereignty and integrity of India".

Amid uproar over his remarks, Anurag hits back at Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anurag Thakur

BJP leader and Lok Sabha member Anurag Thakur on Thursday accused the Congress and its "ancestors" of conspiring against reservation for backward classes and Dalits.

Referring to the uproar by the Opposition on his caste-related remarks during the Budget debate on Tuesday, Mr. Thakur said: "My speech deeply hurt the sense of entitlement of some people as a result of which the entire ecosystem of the Congress is creating a hue and cry. They feel that only they have the right to ask questions because they are privileged. These are the same people whose ancestors used to call the backward, Dalits and deprived as fools."

Mr. Thakur alleged that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had "publicly called" people from the backward communities "fools".

"Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party should read the Lucknow edition of *Navbharat Times* dated March 3, 1985, that had a byline of Alok Mehta, whose interview was titled 'No promotion of intellectuals in the name of reservation'. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said that he will not promote fools in the name of reservation," he said.

Mr. Thakur asked if the Congress would condemn the statement made by Rajiv Gandhi in the interview. "Will any resolution be passed against that statement," he asked.

"If the feudals in the Congress party had not obstructed the Mandal report and Kaka Kalelkar report, then the situation would have been different today," he said.

Kharge demands details of Centre's job incentive schemes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling the employment-linked incentive scheme announced in this year's Budget "tokenism", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday asked the government to spell out the details of the scheme.

"A week into the '*Kursi Bachao* Budget', the academia and the industry awaits clarity from the Modi Govt on its Tokenism regarding the so-called 'employment-linked incentive' schemes," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

Crores of youth want a permanent solution to their plight of jobs, but the Narendra Modi government has not even offered a temporary solution, the Congress chief said. "The 'B' in BJP's Budget stands for 'Betrayal'!" Mr. Kharge alleged.

The Congress chief wondered how will the government nudge 500 top companies to hire 4,000 interns every year if "it couldn't create a conducive environment for private investment".

"Was there any stakeholder consultation before imposing this half-copied idea from the Congress Manifesto? The Congress Manifesto had a 'Right to Apprenticeship' - which is a structured system of training where individuals, known as apprentices, learn a trade or profession through a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction," Mr. Kharge said.

Raising questions

He added that the Modi government's Budget had merely internships forced upon the industry with no long-term solution in sight. Why were none of these employment-linked incentive schemes missing the public sector component, he asked. Was it because the BJP wanted no recruitment of SC, ST, OBC and EWS youth in the public sector through reservation? Why were all these schemes providing temporary employment and internships?

CISF keeps a dossier on all its personnel, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) maintains a dossier on all its personnel deployed at public interfaces, and monitors their social media activity, the government informed Parliament in reply to a question from BJP MP Kangana Ranaut, who was allegedly assaulted by a constable at Chandigarh airport in June.

The information was shared by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol in the Lok Sabha. Ms. Ranaut had asked a question on whether the government had "any monitoring system for the scrutiny of CISF personnel at airports to know about their involvement/influence by some negative elements or activities which results in bad behaviour with passengers".

The Minister said the CISF maintained the dossier at the unit level and these were scrutinised when deciding to deploy them at a public interface.

Opposition targets Centre over roof leak in Parliament, seeks discussion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The stark image of a blue plastic bucket placed in the lobby of the new Parliament building to catch the drips from a leak in the roof triggered an Opposition attack against the government on Thursday, with the Congress moving an adjournment motion to discuss the matter.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat, however, said that there had only been "minor leakage" as "the adhesive material used to fix the glass domes over the lobby of the building was slightly displaced" in the rain that lashed the national capital on Wednesday. Massive waterlogging was also seen in and around the Parliament complex.

The new Parliament building, built at an estimated cost of ₹971 crore, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi a little over a year ago.

Posting a video on X, showing the leaky dome and the bucket placed on the wet floors of the lobby, Congress MP Manickam Tagore said, "Paper leakage outside, water leakage inside. The recent water leakage in the Parliament lobby used by the President highlights urgent weather resilience issues in the new building, just a year after completion." He later submitted a notice for moving an adjournment motion to discuss the matter in the Lok Sabha.

Rain water leaking from the ceiling of the new Parliament building on Thursday. PTI

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also took a swipe at the new building on his X account. "The old Parliament was better than this new Parliament as there even former MPs could come and meet. Why not go back to the old Parliament building, at least till the time the water leakage programme is going on in the [new] Parliament building built with billions of rupees," he posted, also sharing a video of the leak. "People are asking whether water dripping from every new roof constructed under the BJP government is a part of their well-thought out design or..." he said.

'Monstrous edifice'

Trinamool Congress MPs also slammed the design of the new building. "The new Parliament building has no porch and steep precipitous steps. Last night when there was a cloudburst in Delhi, it was the sturdy old Parliament building which came to our rescue – sheltering us under its thoughtfully designed porch and providing some dry ground. The new building built hurriedly and without shelter, failed, while the old one stood firm," Lok Sabha member Sagarika Ghose said on X. Her party colleague, Mahua Moitra, termed the building "a monstrous edifice to @narendramodi's ego", and said "it is only fitting that it has got shaky post 2024 Lok Sabha results".

In its statement, the Lok Sabha Secretariat dismissed doubts over the resilience of the structure.

"[I]t is worth mentioning that keeping in view the concept of Green Parliament, glass domes have been provided in several parts of the building, including in the Lobby, so that abundant natural light could be utilized in day to day work of the Parliament. During the heavy rain on Wednesday, the adhesive material used to fix the glass domes over the Lobby of the Building was slightly displaced, causing minor leakage of water in the Lobby," it said.

"The problem was, however, detected timely and corrective measures were taken immediately," the statement said.

Cong. forms panels for Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday set up screening committees to shortlist the party's potential candidates for the coming Assembly elections in four States.

While Ajay Maken will head the panel for Haryana, Madhusudan Mistry will be the chairman of the committee on Maharashtra.

In Jharkhand, Girish Chodankar will head the panel, while the committee on Jammu and Kashmir will be headed by Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa.

Meanwhile, Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha member K.C. Venugopal is likely to head the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. Fifteen members were elected to the committee, in which the Congress has two members: Mr. Venugopal and Fatehgarh Sahib MP Amar Singh. Usually, the lead Opposition party chairs the committee.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
NOTIFICATION
Roc No.TTD-32021(31)/2/2020-HOT-TTD, Dated:01-08-2024
Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams desired to arrange the best quality drinking water to the visiting pilgrims to Tirumala. Interested parties who can supply pure drinking water in glass bottles at reasonable price are requested to contact Health Officer, TTD, Tirumala.
For further details contact: 9866235432.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.94) Date:01-08-2024 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : (1) Re-E-Tender No 22/2024-25/SE/PHC/CHN **(2)** Re-E-Tender No. 23/2024-25/SE/PHC/CHN **(3)** Re-E-Tender No 25/2024-25/SE/PHC/CHN JJM - WSS to Aikkaranadu, Mazhuvannoor & Kunnathunadu Pt - **(1)** Laying RWPM and CWPM - Pipeline Work **(2)** Construction of 17 MLD Water Treatment Plant and allied works at Peringole - General Civil Work **(3)** Construction of 9m dia well cum pump house - General Civil Work, **EMD :** Rs. (1) 500000, (2) 500000, (3) 200000, **Tender Fee :** Rs. (1) 19518 (2) 19518 (3) 13010, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 16-08-2024, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0484 2360645. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-323-2024-25 **Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 96461-18774)
Tender Enquiry No. MQP-239/2024-25/PR **Dated: 01.08.2024**
CE/Metering, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for procurement of 1,44,000 no. 1-in-1 Polycarbonate Meter Boxes (Cabinets) for incorporating Single Phase Energy Meters. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 01.08.2024 (03:00 PM onwards).
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C-521/24 76155/12/3212/2023/36277

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
TENDER NOTIFICATION
TENDER SPECIFICATION No.CTO-01/2024
TGTRANSCO invites sealed bids (Two part) against Tender Specification No.CTO-01/2024 for **Fixing up of Rate contract Prices for Erection and oil filtration works of 220KV & 132KV class Power Transformers.** The details of Bid Specification, **Bid Sale opening date and Bid submission closing date etc.,** are available at TGTRANSCO website.
Ph.No:040-23393453, 23396000, Extn.Nos.3365,3620,3322,3661. **Sd/-**
DIPR R.O. No. : 288-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Date: 01-08-2024. Chief Engineer/Transmission

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई–जन निविदा / **No: SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-04/24-25** तिथि/ Date. 31.07.2024
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"पुलीकट नगर एवं स्वर्णमुखी आवासीय कालोनियों में 20 एचपी मल निकास पाइप सेटों की आपूर्ति एवं उन्हें स्थापित करना"** (टी/सी-24-018, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 11.00 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार के फेज-II में बाड़े से संबंधित कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-019, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 12.14 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार के जीरो पॉइंट में पीयू जल रोधन कार्य, नियंत्रण केंद्र भवन एवं एफएलपी में जल रिसाव रोकना, जी10 भवन"** (टी/सी-24-020, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 37.70 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार के वाल्फ प्रशासन भवन में जल रिसाव रोकना एवं एसएमपी व ईटीएफ क्षेत्र में कक्ष का निर्माण, एसएचएसबी तथा सिविल नवीनीकरण कार्य, 6सी भवन"** (टी/सी-24-021, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 19.20 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार की एसएमपीसी यूनिट-1, में विविध सिविल कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-022, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 32.92 लाख), **"एफएलपी, एसडीएससी शार में विविध सिविल कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-023, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 15.82 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **16.08.2024** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Supplying & fixing of 20 HP sewage pump sets at PCN & SMN Housing colonies"** (T/C-24-018, Est .cost ₹ 11.00 Lakhs); **"Fencing works @ PHC-II, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-019, Est .cost ₹ 12.14 Lakhs); **"PU waterproof treatment works, Control centre bldg at Zero Point & Arresting water leakages, G10 bldg at FLP, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-020, Est .cost ₹ 37.70 Lakhs); **"Arresting water leakages, VALF Admin bldg & Construction of room, SHSB & civil renovation works, 6C bldg at SMP & ETF area, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-021, Est .cost ₹ 19.20 Lakhs); **"Misc civil works at SMPC Unit-1, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-022, Est .cost ₹ 32.92 Lakhs); **"Misc civil works at FLP, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-023, Est .cost ₹ 15.82 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to **16.08.2024**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail: address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-06 of 2024-25, Letter No.1739 /Dtd.31.07.2024
e-Procurement NOTICE
1. Type of the Work : **Buildings (OMBADC & DMF)**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-06 of 2024-25	08.08.2024 11:00 AM	28.08.2024 5:00 PM	27.08.2024 5:00 PM	29.08.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Control)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C), Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-158 : OIPR-25133/11/0011/2425

OFFICE OF DISTRICT SUPPLY OFFICER, Dausa
COLLECTORATE CAMPUS, DAUSA 303303
Mail-ID dsofood-dau-rj@nic.in
File NO. DSO/DAUSA/PDS/TENDER/2024/488 Dt. 26-07-2024
NOTICE INVITING BID
e-Bids for selection of Handling and Transportation of Food grains Under PDS from FCI Depots in District Dausa are invited from interested bidders up to 16.08.2024 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 37152400/- for one year.
UBN FCC2425SLOB00050
NIB - FCC2425A0030 **District supply officer**
DIPR/C/6771/2024 **Dausa**

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). E-Mail: purchase.engg@tnpl.co.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242513 002463	Procurement of Shaft & Sleeve Annual Rate Contract	16.08.2024

TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction. Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website : **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/2705/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

INBRIEF

Lt.-Gen. Sadhna Saxena Nair is DG, Medical Services of Army

Lieutenant-General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of Director General, Medical Services (Army) on Thursday, becoming the first woman to be appointed to this position. Prior to this, she was the first woman to hold the post of DG Hospital Services (Armed Forces) on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. Lieutenant-General Nair graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune and was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1985. She is also the first woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command, and Training Command, Indian Air Force. She was nominated as an expert member of Dr. Kasturirangan Committee for drafting part of the medical education component of the National Education Policy.

Air India cancels flights to Tel Aviv amid Israel-Iran tensions

Air India cancelled its flights to and from Tel Aviv on Thursday amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran which have led to several global airlines suspending operations to the Ben Gurion Airport. Air India said that passengers with confirmed bookings on the two flights will be provided a one-time waiver on rescheduling and cancellations charges. Germany's Lufthansa and another airline from the same group, Swiss International Air Lines, have cancelled all passenger and cargo flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect till August 8. They have also extended a suspension of flights to the Lebanese capital of Beirut till August 12.

States can directly buy rice from FCI, says Food Minister

They need not take part in e-auction for buying additional stock; Centre brings 16 more items under price monitoring system, launches app

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The decision was taken by the Centre to reduce the surplus stocks ahead of the procurement after the kharif season. SRINATH M

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi announced here on Thursday that State governments can directly purchase rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from Thursday without participating in e-auction.

According to the Centre, the decision was taken to reduce the huge surplus stocks ahead of the procurement after this kharif season.

Mr. Joshi said if the States wanted to procure more rice over the stipulated 5 kg of free grain per individual under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), they could procure it for ₹2,800 per quintal (excluding transportation cost), instead of the earlier rate of ₹2,900 per quintal. The Centre will directly offload rice to the States under the scheme.

Speaking on the PMGKAY, Mr. Joshi maintained that the Centre would continue to provide free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries for a period of five years with effect from January 1, 2024, with an estimated financial outlay of ₹11.8 lakh crore borne by the Centre.

He said the Centre had successfully completed all three phases of replacing custom-milled rice with fortified rice in every scheme of the government.

Vegetable prices

On the increasing prices of vegetables, he said the issue was seasonal.

Tomato price was stabilising, and the Centre had made subsidised tomato available at ₹60 a kg without the use of price stabilisation fund.

He launched the 4.0 version of the Price Monitoring System (PMS) mobile app on which prices of 22 commodities were monitored daily. "Now, prices of 38 commodities will be monitored. We are now adding 16 more commodities," he added. The 16 food items are *bajra* (whole), *jowar* (whole), *ragi* (whole), *suji* (wheat), *maida* (wheat), *besan*, *ghee*, butter (pasteurised), brinjal, egg, black pepper, coriander, cumin seed, red chillies, turmeric powder and banana.

Allahabad HC rejects plea by Shahi Idgah mosque committee

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday dismissed the plea filed by Mathura-based Shahi Idgah mosque committee, challenging maintainability of 18 lawsuits seeking removal of the mosque from the 13.37-acre complex, which it shares with the Katra Keshav Dev temple.

The court observed that the Places of Worship Act does not define "religious character" and to attract provisions of this Act, the religious character of a place of worship must be determined.

A main suit pertaining to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque dispute remains pending in the court. It was filed by the Hindu worshippers who believe that Lord Krishna was born at the complex in Mathura. These petitioners maintain that the mosque was built on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, after demolishing a Hindu temple.

Hearing the batch of cases, the High Court had last year ordered a survey of the mosque by a three-member team, which was stayed by the Supreme Court earlier this month.

Rejecting the Muslim side's plea in which the

A view of Shahi Idgah mosque and Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple in Mathura. PTI

Hindu side's lawsuits were challenged citing the Places of Worship Act, 1991, the Limitation Act, 1963, and the Specific Relief Act, 1963, the Bench of Justice Mayank Kumar Jain said all 18 suits filed in the matter in the past two decades were maintainable, paving the way for trial.

The court noted that in the present proceedings, the question of religious character is a mixed question of facts and law. "This court is of the opinion that the religious character of the suit property cannot be determined at this stage. It can only be decided by framing issues on the basis of the pleadings of the parties and after taking oral and documentary evidence to be led during the trial," the court said.

The mosque committee had argued that the Hindu plaintiffs had already admitted that a compromise was made between the two parties in 1968.

Court grants bail to driver in IAS centre flooding case

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Stating that he was "implicated due to overenthusiasm", a Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to Manuj Kathuria, the SUV driver arrested in a case related to the drowning of three civil services aspirants inside the basement of their coaching centre in the Rajendra Nagar area last week.

"...In continuation to the reply to the previous bail application moved by the accused in the lower court, it is submitted that, during further investigation, it has transpired that the ingredients of Section 105 BNS are, at this stage, not being sufficiently established," the court noted the Delhi police's reply in the matter. The police had further said that Section 105 of the BNS can be better assessed when the expert team from IIT-Delhi visits the spot and post inspection, submits its findings.

"From the perusal of the record, it appears that he was implicated due to overenthusiasm while he has been charged for the offence under Section 105 of BNS, 2023 (Section 304 IPC) which is non-bailable as per scheduled I of the BNSS, 2023," the court noted.

People protest over conflict, displacement in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The police in Manipur's capital Imphal fired tear gas shells to restore order after a rally on Thursday by people displaced by the 16-month-long ethnic conflict in the State turned violent.

About 100 inmates of the Akampat relief camp in Imphal had taken out a rally demanding the rehabilitation of those displaced by the clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people, and a resolution of the ethnic conflict.

Locals said panic set in among students of a school in the area when the protest turned violent. The protesters were mostly from the India-Myanmar border town of Moreh who were displaced in the early days of the conflict in 2023.

CRPF to replace 2 battalions of Assam Rifles in Manipur; Kuki-Zo groups oppose move

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Around 2,000 personnel will be moved to Jammu that has seen a spate of terror attacks since 2021 after two decades of peace

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is all set to replace two battalions of the Assam Rifles in the hill districts of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi in violence-hit Manipur, a government official told *The Hindu*.

Around 2,000 personnel of the oldest paramilitary force will be moved to the Jammu region that has seen a spate of terror attacks since 2021 after two decades of relative peace.

Tribal groups have opposed the move.

The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) said that "Assam Rifles after years of effort and dedication won the hearts and minds of the hill people". Ever since ethnic violence erupted in the State on May 3, 2023, the deployment of the Assam Rifles and the State police in vulnerable areas has been a bone of contention between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei community.

Meitei civil society groups and legislators have alleged that in many "sensitive areas", the Assam Rifles personnel are not responsive and remain mute spectators when unarmed civilians are fired upon. On January 22, 34 MLAs passed a resolution stating, "These forces and their leadership (chain of command) need to give strict instructions and be held accountable and replaced with forces that have the ability to act by returning suppressive fire when they observe that unarmed civilians are being fired upon, to enable civilians to get to cover and safety."

The Kuki-Zo groups said the decision is against the will of the local population and the government needs to rethink.

A senior government official said, "Only two battalions, one posted in Churachandpur and the other in Kangpokpi districts, are being replaced with CRPF. The infrastructure of AR (Assam Rifles) will be retained by incoming units."

Punitive tax on imported laboratory chemicals removed after furore

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In a relief to scientists and researchers across the country, the Finance Ministry has clarified that all imported 'laboratory chemicals', except denatured ethanol, will be taxed at 10% instead of 150% as was first proposed in the Union Budget on July 23.

Imported laboratory chemicals are a critical component of research in nearly every domain of science. They include reagents and enzymes that are usually extremely specific and not mass-produced, making them expensive and a significant overhead on the budget that scientists get for planning their research.

The Customs Department defines laboratory chemicals as "all chemicals, organic or inorganic, whether or not chemically defined, imported in packings not exceeding 500 gm or 500 millilitres and which can be identified with reference to the purity, makings or other features to show them to be meant for use solely as laboratory chemicals".

Seek clarification

As *The Hindu* reported this week, several scientists went into a tizzy after companies that supply these chemicals informed them they would now have to pay 1.5 times the usual rate for their goods. Senior scientists wrote to funding agencies such as the Ministry of Science and Technology, asking for clarification on the new rate and even, if the Budget documents, had actually made a misprint by writing 150% instead of 15%.

Imported laboratory chemicals include reagents and enzymes that are not mass produced.

As it emerged, this wasn't a misprint. The Customs Department had hiked its rates allegedly to rein in imports of ethanol that were being brought in as 'laboratory chemicals' to avoid the customs duty of 150%. There are broadly two kinds of ethanol. Ethanol, of varying grades, sourced from grain and used in the manufacture of alcohol, and, denatured ethanol, which is ethanol mixed with additives and unfit for consumption. The latter also comes in grades but is used in laboratories and in commercial applications.

Scientists told *The Hindu* that denatured alcohol is made by several local manufacturers and does not need to be imported.

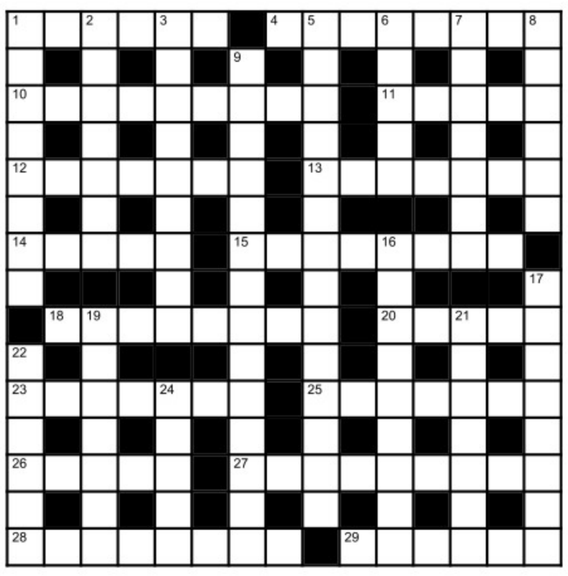
However, the Finance Ministry notification also states that any laboratory chemical imported needs to be accompanied by a letter that says the goods will only be used in a laboratory and for research and not further traded for commercial gains.

TH CROSSWORD + 14243

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Perhaps teach English to a Goddess (6)
4 Contract for a short dress wearing attractive girl (8)
10 "Damages the garden tool", did you say? It just wears out (5,4)
11 Part of the mercurial Pope's court (5)
12 Forgetfulness - crazy since the morning before (7)
13 Any different? Search over for Americans (7)
14 Suffer a loss, some of it over "free power" (5)
15 Rinse and use, treat bed-wetting (8)
18 God, carrier of supreme power (8)
20 Concentrate, cut both sides off and get some more (5)
23 Reject say, butter and cheese material (7)
25 Soldiers have no time for rigorous training (7)
26 Steward of the manor on the day before (5)
27 Prime minister Major regularly is seen in school (9)
28 Save to resolve a dispute (3,5)
29 Steps to chop the head off the snakes (6)

Down

1 Language expert - he is on support, it's arranged (8)
2 Sorting out each length covering news agency (7)
3 Walk around - confident it's highly valued (9)
5 Cross boundary rope, interesting - both sides come again? (1,3,4,6)
6 Old empire still preserved (5)
7 Indian serial made on this subject (7)
8 Vehicle for those who are late (6)
9 I check there and whole thing becomes yellow (7-7)
16 Sergie's gone finally, full of beans (9)
17 Starts with a drop of alcohol during meals (8)
19 Not on the usual route - that's strange (7)
21 Story about one doctor and one pair of drums (7)
22 Foot rest isn't right, so cause trouble (4,2)
24 Number from top to bottom levels (5)

SUDOKU

				9	4	8		
			7			5	2	6
5	8	7					3	9
	5	1	8					2
				1				
3					5	1	8	
7	3					2	9	5
6	1	2			9			
		5	3	7				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	W	S	E	B	C	I	C
O	E	R	S	T	E	D	O	R	L	A	N	D	O
G	E	Y	I	L	O	T	S
N	A	S	C	E	N	T	D	E	V	I	A	N	T
A	T	E	F	E	G	M
C	A	S	S	A	N	D	R	A	H	A	L	M	A
C	I	I	R
A	S	T	O	U	N	D	E	N	T	R	O	P	Y
M	E	T	E	C
P	I	X	I	E	P	U	N	C	H	L	I	N	E
E	T	A	O	A	G	A
R	E	F	I	N	E	R	P	I	L	S	N	E	R
A	I	G	T	A	E	I	N
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	E
E	E	E	D	M	O	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	6	3	7	5	2	4	9
2	3	4	9	8	1	5	6	7
9	7	5	2	4	6	1	8	3
5	6	2	7	9	4	3	1	8
4	1	7	8	5	3	6	9	2
8	9	3	1	6	2	4	7	5
6	5	8	4	2	7	9	3	1
7	2	1	6	3	9	8	5	4
3	4	9	5	1	8	7	2	6

FAITH

Acquisition of knowledge

Mankind has been blessed with the ability to think. This is a great boon. But it is a faculty that has to be sharpened through reading, said Malayaman in a discourse. Wealth that we acquire can be lost due to natural calamities, or it can be stolen from us. But what we read always remains with us, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Thiruvalluvar tells us that unlike the things that we call wealth, education is true wealth. It is wealth that is never destroyed.

Thiruvalluvar says a learned man notices that the world is happy because he is well read. And this serves as an impetus for him to read more. There are two types of knowledge – that which we need for managing daily life, and spiritual knowledge. Thirumoolar says there was a time when he had not understood the meaning of Self. When he did, his previous state of ignorance vanished. In another verse in his Tirumandiram, Thirumoolar says as long as a man has no self-realisation, he gets caught in worldly life. Once he understands the nature of the *atma*, he acquires divinity. Thus, while we need to acquire knowledge that helps us tackle the everyday problems of life, and to make a living, this alone is not enough. For the *atma* to attain liberation, one must also pay attention to spiritual knowledge. Learning and reading must continue throughout life and must not be time bound.

INBRIEF

NMDC's iron ore output slid 11%, sales rose over 5% in July

Mining major NMDC reported iron ore production slid 11% to 2.17 million tonne in July, from the 2.44 MT a year earlier, while sales of the key raw material used in steel production rose more than 5% to 3.06 MT. For the four months ended July, production totalled 11.36 MT (13.15 MT) and sales 13.13 MT (13.89 MT), India's largest iron ore producer said in a filing on Thursday. Sources cited monsoon impact on mining operations as reason for the July performance.

Sun Pharma Q1 net rises 29% on cut in raw material cost

Sun Pharma reported Q1 net profit grew 29% to ₹2,878.94 crore from ₹2,232.05 crore in the year-earlier period on shrinking material costs and revenue expansion The company's revenue from operations rose 6% to ₹12,652.7 crore in Q1 FY25 from ₹11,940.8 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. Cost of materials consumed dropped 16% in the reporting quarter to ₹1,557.01 crore from ₹1,852.49 crore due to "better product mix", according to CFO C.S Muralidhar.

Repco Home Finance Q1 net profit rises 18% to ₹105 crore

Repco Home Finance Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the June quarter rose 18% from the year-earlier period to ₹105 crore. Net interest income rose by 8% to ₹175 crore, while total revenue from operations increased to ₹408 crore (₹364 crore). Net interest margin remained flat at 5.1%, the lender said in a statement. Gross non-performing assets declined to 4.25% from 5.5%, while net NPAs slid to 1.7% from 2.8%. Provisional coverage ratio was 61.8% (51.4%).

GST receipts growth rallies to 10.3%, July kitty 3rd-highest ever

Net receipts rise 14.4% with revenue from imports outpacing domestic transactions; refunds record a sharp decline; 14 States underperform

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections crossed ₹1.82 lakh crore to hit the third-highest monthly level in July, with revenue growth rebounding to 10.3% from June's three-year low of 7.6%.

Gross revenue from domestic transactions grew 8.9%, easing from 9.4% in June, but growth in taxes collected on imports bounced to 14.2%, from 2.4% a month earlier.

Sequentially, gross GST collections were 4.75% more than June's kitty of ₹1,73,813 crore. After effecting refunds, net GST collections rose 14.4% in July to ₹1,65,793 crore, with net import revenue up 17.3% and domestic transactions clocking a 13.5% rise. July's net GST revenues were 7.75% over June's figure of just under ₹1.54 lakh crore.

Net domestic revenues had risen 8.5% in June, while net receipts from imports had contracted 1.5% from June 2023 levels.

Tax experts noted a slowdown in refunds might be responsible for the sharper uptick in net tax collections vis-a-vis gross revenue. In June, refunds had grown 19.3% year-on-year, with both domestic and export-related refunds rising by more than 19%.

Strong showing

Gross GST (GST) collections hit their third-highest monthly level in July to cross the ₹1.82 lakh crore-mark

- Gross monthly receipts hit a record high of more than ₹2.1 lakh crore in April
- Domestic GST refunds slid 34.1% in July while export-related refunds rose 1.4%
- Tax experts cited a slowdown in refunds as likely reason for sharper uptick in net tax collections

Domestic refunds slip

In contrast, domestic refunds slipped 34.1% in July, while export-related GST refunds rose 1.4%. Total refunds in July were 19.4% lower than a year earlier at ₹16,283 crore, which also marked an 18.4% drop from June's refunds of almost ₹20,000 crore.

July's revenue numbers were provisional, as per an official statement. Gross monthly GST receipts hit a record high of more than ₹2.1 lakh crore in April.

The Finance Ministry, which generally shared monthly GST revenue numbers through a press release on the first of every subsequent month since the introduction of the tax in 2017, had not issued such a statement for June.

June's figures were subsequently released on the indirect tax portal.

While total revenues from domestic transactions were 8.9% higher, as many as five States clocked a contraction, including AP and HP. Revenue growth was milder than the national average in nine States, including Tamil Nadu and Bihar.

Gross GST revenues in the first four months of 2024-25 had risen 10.2% to ₹7.39 lakh crore. Net collections' growth was slightly higher at 11%, with a kitty of ₹6.56 lakh crore.

"There appears to be a wide divergence in the growth of collections compared with the same month last year across States even among the large manufacturing and consuming States," said M.S. Mani, partner, Deloitte India, noting the need to assess the variations based on sectoral data for these States.

Mr. Mani also said there "appears to be a slowdown on refunds".

PMI signals factory activity eased in July

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in new orders and output eased slightly at Indian factories in July, even as firms raised selling prices at the fastest pace in almost 11 years amid a significant spike in input costs that accelerated at a two-year high rate, the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey shows.

The seasonally adjusted PMI inched down to 58.1 in July, from June's 58.3.

"The continuous increase in the output price index, driven by input and labour cost pressure, may signal further inflationary pressure," averred HSBC chief India economist Pranjul Bhandari.

About 7% of firms reported an uptick in hiring, with both permanent and short-term hires, but 92% reported no change in staff headcount. The pace of job creation dropped below June's levels, said S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Nasscom slams GST notice to Infosys

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'The issue at hand involves the applicability of GST through the reverse charge mechanism'

Nasscom on Thursday questioned the logic of a ₹32,000-crore GST notice to Infosys, without naming the firm, noting the move reflected a lack of understanding of the industry's operating model.

"Recent media reports of a GST demand of over ₹320 billion reflected a lack of understanding of the industry's operating model," the apex body observed.

"This is an industry-wide issue and multiple companies are facing avoidable litigation, uncertainty, concerns from investors and customers," Nasscom said in a statement. According to Nassom, the issue at hand involves the applicability of GST through the reverse charge mechanism (RCM).

The GST enforcement authorities had been issuing notices for remittance by the Indian head office to its foreign branches for cases where there is no service between the head office and the foreign branch for this RCM, ignoring that this is not a case of 'import of service' by the head office from the branch.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,868	0.15
US Dollar	83.73	-0.01
Gold	72,500	0.76
Brent oil	80.18	-0.64

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3217.25	47.85
Adani Ports	1590.15	20.25
Apollo Hosp	6706.40	91.10
Asian Paints	3099.35	14.90
Axis Bank	1172.30	6.20
Bajaj Auto	9730.50	66.30
Bajaj Finserv	1634.80	-16.85
Bajaj Finance	6771.65	-35.30
Bharti Airtel	1505.50	13.95
BPCL	349.10	-0.95
Britannia Ind	5730.15	-54.30
Cipla	1546.20	1.90
Coal India	540.40	18.20
Divis Lab	4917.90	-5.30
Dr Reddys Lab	6887.95	137.45
Eicher Motors	4968.80	6.10
Grasim Ind	2767.00	-9.75
HCL Tech	1640.55	-2.05
HDFC Bank	1638.80	23.05
HDFC Life	713.60	-1.90
Hero MotoCorp	5371.85	-116.60
Hindalco	673.50	3.90
Hind Unilever	2715.55	9.90
ICICI Bank	1210.10	-4.80
IndusInd Bank	1419.85	-7.95
Infosys	1852.60	-15.65
ITC	493.70	-1.65
JSW Steel	934.55	6.30
Kotak Bank	1792.65	-15.25
L&T	3779.30	-35.70
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5678.90	20.75
M&M	2828.40	-79.40
Maruti Suzuki	13359.05	243.25
NestleIndia	2484.00	27.65
NTPC	423.45	7.45
ONGC	341.75	7.55
PowerGrid Corp	361.10	12.90
Reliance Ind	3030.60	19.75
SBI Life	1767.25	13.60
State Bank	862.65	-9.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2989.25	57.30
Sun Pharma	1715.20	-4.15
TataConsumerProduct	1208.35	19.40
Tata Motors	1144.40	-12.25
Tata Steel	163.06	-2.27
TCS	4397.10	11.75
Tech Mahindra	1544.45	-9.95
Titan	3468.35	9.40
UltraTech Cement	11984.50	97.30
Wipro	521.55	-0.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.52	83.84
Euro	90.15	90.51
British Pound	106.60	107.02
Japanese Yen (100)	55.54	55.75
Chinese Yuan	11.52	11.57
Swiss Franc	95.21	95.58
Singapore Dollar	62.41	62.66
Canadian Dollar	60.44	60.67
Malaysian Ringitt	18.27	18.36
Australian Dollar	54.56	54.77

Source:Indian Bank

'India's per capita income to hit a quarter of U.S. levels in 75 years'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India may be the fastest growing major economy, but it will take 75 years for its per capita income to reach a quarter of U.S. income levels if current trends continue, the World Bank warned on Thursday, identifying it as one of 100-odd countries including China that face the risk of falling into the "middle income trap".

The World Bank made a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to turn India into a developed economy by 2047, "the centennial of independence" in its 'World Development Report 2024'. While governments in India and other nations hope to accomplish the transition from a middle-income economy, like Korea, the multilateral lender said "it would be fair to conclude that it would be a miracle if today's middle-income economies manage to do in 50 years what Korea did in just 25."

'Driving in first gear'

Noting that many middle-income countries still use a playbook from the last century, relying mainly on policies designed to expand investment, World Bank group chief economist Indermit Gill posited that it was like "driving a car just in first gear and trying to make it go faster".

"If they stick with the old playbook, most developing countries will lose the race to create reasonably prosperous societies by the middle of this century. At current trends, it will take China more than 10 years just to reach one-quarter of U.S. income per capita, Indonesia nearly 70 years, and India 75 years," Mr. Gill cautioned.

Nations such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa face serious obstacles in efforts to become high-income countries, reckoned the World Bank, concluding that countries growing wealthier usually hit a "trap" at about 10% of annual U.S. GDP per person. This is currently the equivalent of $8,000 today, or the middle of the range of what the Bank classifies as "middle-income" countries.

By 2023, 108 countries were classified as middle-income, each with annual GDP per capita in the range of $1,136 to $13,845. Home to six billion people or 75% of the global population, with two out of every three persons living in extreme poverty, these countries generate more than 40% of global GDP.

Emphasising that the road ahead poses even stiffer challenges such as rapidly ageing populations and the difficulty of expediting economic progress without fouling the environment, Mr. Gill mooted a fresh approach to escape the 'middle-income trap'.

Tube Investments Q1 net rises 5% to ₹154 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) reported first-quarter net profit rose 5% from the year-earlier period to ₹154 crore.

Total revenue from operations rose 10% to ₹1,960 crore, with revenue from engineering and metal forming divisions climbing ₹123 crore to ₹1,265 crore and by ₹16 crore to ₹358 crore, respectively, while in the mobility division it contracted by ₹6 crore to ₹181 crore, said TII.

Consolidated revenue from operations was ₹4,578 crore against ₹3,898 crore. Net profit rose to ₹314 crore from ₹284 crore.

Tata Motors Q1 net soars 74% to ₹5,566 cr., revenue up 6%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. reported first-quarter consolidated net profit grew 74% from the year-earlier period to ₹5,566 crore.

Consolidated revenue grew 5.7% to ₹1,08,048 crore year-on-year (YoY).

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) revenue climbed 5.4% to £7,273 million with EBIT margins of 8.9% (+30 bps) driven by favourable volume, mix and material cost improvements, the company said in a filing.

Commercial Vehicles (CV) business reported a revenue of ₹17,849 crore, up 5.1% while EBIT margins improved to 8.9% (up 240 bps) benefiting from better realisations and material cost savings.

Revenue of the Passenger Vehicles (PV) business slid 7.7% to ₹11,847 crore, reflecting challenging market conditions but EBITDA at 5.8% rose 50 bps on material-cost reduction.

"The first quarter has carried forward the momentum of last year with all businesses continuing to deliver on their distinctive strategies," said P.B. Balaji, Group CFO. "We are confident of sustaining the performance in the coming quarters and delivering a strong year."

Stating the PV market was subdued in July, he said the segment would grow in the coming quarters with new products and festive demand.

The Board approved the scheme of demerger of Tata Motors into two separate listed firms viz. Tata Motors Ltd. and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. .

In FY25 the company will be making a capital investment of ₹35,000 crore in JLR and ₹8,000 crore in the India business.

Mr. Balaji said the company would become debt free this year as planned.

Products, strategies driving MRF's growth journey: CMD

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Following the disturbance to commercial shipping in the Red Sea, tyre major MRF is taking necessary steps to continue its growth journey driven by products and strategies, said Chairman and Managing Director K.M. Mammen.

"The disturbance to commercial shipping in the Red Sea is a challenge both for imports of essential raw materials and exports. Given this situation, MRF will take necessary steps to continue its growth journey," he said, addressing shareholders at the 63rd Annual General Meeting.

K.M. Mammen

Asserting that the Indian economy was expected to carry on the growth momentum of the previous year, he said the raw material prices had started increasing steeply in recent months, which needed to be addressed suitably. Also, the industry had to cover the impact of extended producers' responsibility imposed by the government.

He also said that during 2023-24 raw material prices remained favourable. As a result, MRF was able to avoid any price increases. In fact, MRF also gave a price reduction in its star product in the truck tyre range S3C8, which was welcomed by customers.

Talking about export markets, he said sales in FY24 were impacted due to unfavourable regulatory restrictions in certain countries, the Red Sea crisis, and a severe shortage of forex in few markets. As a result, MRF saw a marginal increase in export turnover to ₹1,874 crore from ₹1,866 crore in the year earlier period.

RITES posts muted performance in Q1, eyes faster execution of orders, says MD

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Railway PSU RITES posted muted performance in the first quarter of FY24-25 compared with the year-earlier period , and is now shifting focus to faster execution of orders including export orders received from Mozambique and Bangladesh to quicken revenue collection, said MD Rahul Mithal.

Operating revenue (consolidated), excluding other income, stood at ₹486 crore in Q1 FY25 as against ₹544 crore in Q1 FY24, which is a decline of 10.8%.

In the Q1 of FY24, supply of coaches to Mozambique had raked in ₹35 crore, while another ₹25

crore was brought in from Railway Inspection services provided to Indian Railways, for which RITES was the sole nominee, Mr. Mithal told *The Hindu* in an exclusive interview.

Due to a change in the policy of Indian Railways, which now empanels four companies - Intertek, Bureau Veritas, TUV (India) and RITES for inspecting wheels, rails, rolling stock and so on, Mr. Mithal said revenue from inspection is being shared in four ways leading to a dip in earnings for RITES.

"Also, at ₹5 crore, the export segment has shown a dip of 87%, but fresh orders worth ₹1,200 crore for export of 200 coaches worth ₹900 crore to Bangladesh and 10 locomotives worth ₹300 crore to Mozambique will bring in enhanced revenue by the first quarter of the next financial year," Mr. Mithal said. RITES had also created an India Middle East EU Corridor (IMEC) cell with its office, where it is pooling in internal resources as well as hiring additional resources to deliberate with multiple stakeholders including ports, Ministry of Railways, and foreign governments to identify key challenges in building the corridor.

Commenting on the volatile situation due to the Israel-Palestine conflict , Mr. Mithal said the current focus in India is to develop the first India-UAE leg of IMEC.

"We are analysing the trade potential, cost of augmenting infrastructure, especially joining missing links, seamless integration of different IT system interfaces for different countries' ports and railways, integration of regulatory aspects like Customs as each port has their own port and cargo monitoring systems," he said.

Maruti leads drop in July dealer sales of carmakers

Reuters
BENGALURU

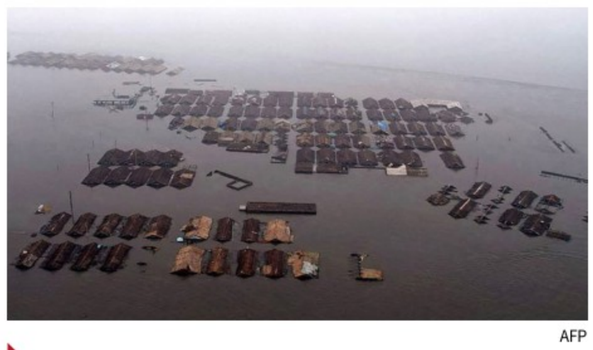
India's top three carmakers by sales, on Thursday, reported a drop in car sales to domestic dealers in July as pent-up demand from last year began to taper off.

Hyundai Motor India's sales to dealers dropped 3.3% while Tata Motors' sales slid by 6%. Market leader Maruti Suzuki's sales fell 9.6%.

"For about two years, the industry has grown substantially. One year of consolidation is expected, so this year would be flattish," said Amit Hiranandani, auto sector lead analyst at brokerage SMIFS.

SEOUL

South Korea offers humanitarian aid to flood-hit North Korea



AFP

South Korea on Thursday offered to send aid supplies to North Korea to help the country recover from heavy rain and floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge swathes of farmland. It is unclear whether North Korea would accept South Korea's proposal for help since animosity between the rivals is at its highest. AP

GAZA STRIP

At least 15 Palestinians killed in Israeli strike on school in Gaza

AP

Israeli forces hit a school in Shejaia in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 15 people and wounding 29, Palestinian civil emergency services said. The military said it had targeted fighters operating in a compound within the school that it said was used as a hideout for Hamas commanders and fighters. REUTERS

KANO

Bomb attack kills 19, injures 27 in northeastern Nigeria teahouse

AFP

A bomb exploded in a teahouse in Kawuri village in Borno State in northeast Nigeria, killing 19 people and wounding 27, security sources said on Thursday. No group has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's blast, but the Boko Haram jihadist group and Islamic State West Africa Province are both active in Borno. AFP

WASHINGTON

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, 9/11 attacks accused, to plead guilty

AP

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, accused as the mastermind of al-Qaeda's September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, has agreed to plead guilty, the Defence Department said on Wednesday. The development points to a long-delayed resolution in an attack that killed thousands and altered the course of the U.S. AP

Calls for revenge echo at Haniyeh's funeral; Tehran vows 'punishment'

President Pezeshkian assures Hamas that Iran 'will continue to support the Axis of Resistance with firmer determination"; UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the strikes in Tehran and Beirut represented a 'dangerous escalation'

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran held a funeral ceremony on Thursday with calls for revenge after the killing in Tehran of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in a strike blamed on Israel.

Thousands of mourners paid respects to Haniyeh as the Israeli military confirmed that an air strike in Gaza last month killed the Hamas military chief, Mohammed Deif.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers for Haniyeh ahead of his burial in Qatar, having earlier threatened a "harsh punishment" for his killing.

In Tehran's city centre, crowds, including women shrouded in black, carried posters of Haniyeh and Palestinian flags in a procession and ceremony that began at Tehran University.

Throng of mourners: Iranians take part in a funeral ceremony for late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran on Thursday. AFP

Iran's Revolutionary Guards announced the day before that Haniyeh and a bodyguard were killed in a pre-dawn strike on Wednesday on their accommodation in Tehran.

It came just hours after Israel killed a top Hezbollah commander, Fuad Shukr, in a retaliatory strike in the south of Lebanon's capital Beirut, raising fears of a wider regional conflict as the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza continues. Shukr is to be buried on Thursday.

'Duty to respond'

Senior Iranian officials including President Masoud Pezeshkian and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief, General Hossein Salami, attended the ceremony for Haniyeh, state TV showed. Qatar-based Haniyeh had been visiting Tehran for Mr. Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony on Tuesday.

Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas's foreign relations chief, vowed during the funeral ceremony that Haniyeh's message will live on and "we will pursue Israel until it is uprooted from the land of Palestine".

Mr. Pezeshkian later told Mr. Hayya that Iran "will continue to support with firmer determination on the Axis of Resistance", Iran-aligned regional groups that include Hamas, the official *IRNA* news agency said.

Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said, "It is our duty to respond at the right time and in the right place."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the strikes in Tehran and Beirut represented a "dangerous escalation".

Israel says Hamas military chief Deif killed in July hit

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Army confirmed on Thursday that Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif was killed in an air strike last month in the southern Gaza Strip.

The announcement came a day after Hamas and Iran said the Palestinian movement's chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Tehran. Israel has not commented on that report.

"Mohammed Deif, the Osama bin Laden of Gaza, was eliminated" on July 13, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said.

This is a "significant milestone in the process of dismantling Hamas" in Gaza, Mr. Gallant added.

The Army said fighter jets had struck Khan Yunis on July 13 and "following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike".

Mohammed Deif

He was killed along with one of his top commanders, Rafa Salama, the military said.

Health authorities in Hamas-run Gaza said more than 90 people had been killed in that strike but Hamas has denied Deif was among them.

"Deif initiated, planned, and executed the October 7th massacre," the military said. On that day the militant Islamist group attacked southern Israel, resulting in the death of 1,197 people, according to a tally.

Deif became head of Hamas's armed wing, Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, in 2002.

He was among Israel's most wanted man for nearly three decades and on a U.S. list of "international terrorists" since 2015.

Deif, whose real name is Mohammed Diab al-Masri, was born in the Khan Yunis refugee camp in 1965.

In January, Israel released a picture of Deif showing him with one eye missing, without specifying when it was taken.

Deif became involved in Hamas in the 1980s when he was a student at the Gaza Islamic University.

He is said to have played a key role in the huge network of tunnels built beneath Gaza.

Bangladesh police release student leaders after unrest

Agence France-Presse
Press Trust of India
DHAKA

The Bangladesh police freed six student leaders on Thursday whose campaign against civil service job quotas sparked deadly nationwide unrest, as the government looked to calm tensions and forestall fresh demonstrations.

Students Against Discrimination staged nationwide rallies last month that ended in a police crackdown and the deaths of at least 206 people, according to a count of police and hospital data.

The group's leadership were among thousands picked up in the police dragnet that followed some of the worst unrest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure.

"All six quota movement coordinators have been returned to their families this afternoon," Deputy Commissioner Junaed Alam Sarkar said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir under anti-terrorism law, accusing the fundamentalist party of instigating protests. The development comes after a meeting of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance passed a resolution earlier this week.

Harrowing deluge

A man rides a horse cart through a flooded street following heavy rain in Lahore on Thursday. Pakistan's second-largest city experienced record-breaking rainfall, with hospitals flooded, power supply interrupted and streets submerged. AFP

Opposition urges Venezuelans to 'mobilise' after polls

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

Venezuelan Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado called on Wednesday for supporters to "mobilise" after President Nicolas Maduro vowed to hold on to power following a widely disputed election.

Ms. Machado's message comes amid deep uncertainty in the South American country, after Mr. Maduro was declared the winner in Sunday's election but with electoral authorities failing to disclose detailed results to back up the claim.

Sixteen people have been killed in protests that erupted after the election, according to the Opposition, which claims its candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia is the rightful victor. The Opposition has released a large set of voting data it says shows him defeating Mr. Maduro by a wide margin.

Nicolas Maduro

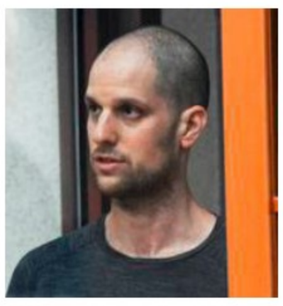
Russia has freed U.S. reporter in prisoner swap, says Turkiye

Agence France-Presse
ANKARA

U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich and former U.S. marine Paul Whelan were released from Russia on Thursday, the Turkish government announced, in one of the biggest East-West prisoner swaps since the Cold War.

A total of 26 people, including two minors, from the United States, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Norway, Belarus and Russia were involved in the swap "carried out" by Turkiye's MIT intelligence service, Turkiye's presidency said.

There was no immediate confirmation from U.S. officials, although the swap was widely reported by U.S. television networks. The Kremlin declined to comment on any exchange.



Evan Gershkovich

Wall Street Journal reporter Gershkovich, 32, was detained in Russia in March 2023 and convicted in July on spying charges in a fast-track trial denounced as a sham by the United States.

Signs of an imminent prisoner swap had picked up momentum earlier on Thursday, amid reports a plane used in a previous exchange deal had landed in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

Among those expected to be returned to Russia in exchange is Vadim Krasikov, a Russian citizen imprisoned in Germany for killing a former Chechen rebel commander in a brazen assassination.

The exchange would be a victory for President Joe Biden, whose Vice President, Kamala Harris, faces Republican Donald Trump in the November election.

F-16s delivered to Ukraine 'will be shot down': Russia

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Thursday that any F-16s delivered to Ukraine would be shot down and have little impact on the battlefield, in response to reports that the first fighter jets have arrived.

"Their number will gradually decrease, they will be shot down... But of course, these deliveries will not have any significant impact on the development of events on the front," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

The F-16 is touted for its precision and speed.

Trump attacks Kamala Harris's racial identity, says she opted to 'turn Black'

Agence France-Presse
HARRISBURG

Donald Trump suggested on Wednesday that Vice-President Kamala Harris had decided to "turn Black" for political gain, as he attacked his Democratic White House rival during a combative interaction with African American journalists in Chicago.

The Republican former President's inflammatory comments marked an escalation of the 78-year-old's vitriol against Ms. Harris, whom he falsely accused of having identified as Indian but then, "all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she became a Black person".

Kamala Harris, Donald Trump

Ms. Harris, 59, has long identified as Black and graduated from a historically Black university.

"So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?" asked Mr. Trump during a heated interview at the National Association of Black Journalists conference.

Ms. Harris later denounced the attacks as "the same old show" of "the divisiveness and the disrespect" from Mr. Trump.

The combative remarks by Mr. Trump, who has been eager to improve his performance with Black voters, are likely to send shock waves through the 2024 White House contest.

They come as the former President, convicted two months ago of felony fraud related to hush money payments to an adult star, struggles to formulate a new strategy less than 100 days before the election.

People deserve better'

In her address to a sorority gathering on Wednesday in Houston, Texas, Ms. Harris slammed Mr. Trump's attacks.

"The American people deserve better," she said. "We deserve a leader who understands that our differences do not divide us, they are an essential source of our strength."

GALLIC DELIGHT

Marchand wins 200m breaststroke for a third gold in Paris Games

AFP

Leon Marchand won his third Olympic gold with a sensational win in men's 200m breaststroke on Wednesday. The Frenchman's time of 2:05.85 was a new Olympic record and the second fastest of all-time. Defending champion Zac Stubblety-Cook of Australia took silver and Caspar Corbeau of the Netherlands the bronze.

WAY AHEAD

Ledecky retains 1,500m freestyle Olympic gold, rewrites records

AP

Katie Ledecky blitzed the field to retain her 1,500m freestyle title, securing a record-equalling eighth gold medal in the sport. She won in an Olympic record 15.30.02, more than 10 seconds ahead of France's silver medallist Anastasiia Kirpichnikova. Germany's Isabel Gose took bronze.

DOING ONE BETTER

Pan breaks own world record on way to 100m freestyle gold

AFP

Pan Zhanle of China broke his own world record on the way to winning the men's 100m freestyle on Wednesday night, finishing in 46.40 seconds for his country's first swimming gold medal of the Paris Olympics. That mark topped his 46.80 at the World championships. He edged Kyle Chalmers (47.48) and David Popovici (47.49).

THIRD MEDAL

McIntosh storms to women's 200m butterfly gold

GETTY IMAGES

Canadian teenager Summer McIntosh stormed to the women's 200m butterfly title on Thursday to collect her third medal of the Paris Olympics. The 17-year-old hit the wall in an Olympic record 2min 03.03sec ahead of America's Regan Smith (2:03.84) and Chinese defending champion Zhang Yufei (2:05.09).

Swapnil Kusale overcomes the jitters to shoot down India's third bronze medal

The 25-year-old, who didn't look like he was going to make it to the podium at the end of the first two stages, pulls himself together even as the others lose their nerve

PARIS 2024

Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

Om tryambakam yajamahe sugandhim pusti-vardhanam urvarukam iva bandhanan mrtyor muksiya ma 'mrtat

About a year ago, Swapnil Kusale had the Maha Mrityunjay mantra tattooed down his spine. It is a verse from the Rig Veda spoken in times of great stress and which bestows longevity. The original intention of the verse though was to ease the transition from the world of mortals.

Immortality is indeed what the 25-year-old has achieved. He will forever be a legend in Indian sports after winning the men's 50m 3 position shooting Olympic bronze at Chateauroux.

If Kusale has the *moksha* mantra written on his back, he also has 'Bharat' engraved in gold letters on the barrel of his gun. It's with that gun that Kusale, the son of a school teacher from village Kambalwadi, near Kolhapur, won India's third bronze at this Games and the first ever in this event.

Seen as a promising shooter he had finished fourth on two big occasions – at the 2022 World Championships and then in the Asian Games.

Competing in his first Olympics, Kusale looked to be going down a similar path in final here as well. Starting with a 9.6 in his first kneeling shot – shooters take 15 shots kneeling, then another 15 lying prone, before transitioning to standing position – the occasion seemed to get the better of Kusale. He, however, pulled himself together and continued to stay in the contest.

At the end of the first two stages, Kusale was fifth – 0.9 behind fourth and a whole point away from the medals.

Kusale said he wasn't trying to pay attention to the gap. "I just was focused on my breath. I wanted to make my teammates happy. I just focused on my body to calm myself," he said afterwards.

The standing position is where matters are truly settled and that's where Kusale really shone. Although he started poorly with a 9.5, he shot another four in the 10 ring to keep his position. In his second series of five shots, another 9.1 was evened out by another four in the 10 ring.

If Kusale managed to keep his nerve, those around him lost theirs. Jiri Privratsky of Czechia, who was fourth, and Jon Herman Hegg of Norway, who was in the lead at the start of the standing series, both shot five shots in the nine ring to vault Kusale into bronze medal place. The Indian would never leave it. He opened up a 2.2 point gap that Privratsky wasn't able to bridge.

Indeed the Indian even had a chance to finish in second place but ultimately conceded that to Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish while China's Yukun Liu triumphed. Silver might have been missed but bronze isn't too bad as the big smile Kusale's face suggested. The grin got wider as he posed for photos later. With the tricolour on his back, Kusale looked every bit the icon of Indian sports history.

A bronze, India's silver lining

On a day of setbacks for India — boxer Nikhat and shuttler Sindhu bowed out in the round of 16 while the men's badminton duo of Satwik and Chirag was eliminated in the quarterfinals — Kusale brought cheer with a bronze in the 50m rifle men's 3 position event, the third shooting medal for the country in Paris

- **Born:** August 6, 1995
- World rank: **No.12**

- Swapnil Kusale was one of the three Indian shooters to win the Olympic quota in the first competition in the current Olympic cycle, the World Championship in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2022
- He was fourth in the 3-position event then, and missed the bronze by 0.3 point. The other two Indian Olympic quota winners from Cairo, trap shooter Bhowneesh Mendiratta and air rifle World Champion, Rudrankksh Patil, did not make the Olympic team
- Swapnil won the Asian Games team gold with Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Akhil Sheoran in Hangzhou, China, last year. Aishwary missed the final by one point in the Paris Games, while Olympic quota winner Akhil Sheoran could not make the national team

International medals	G	S	B
World Championship	0	0	1
World Cup	2	2	0
Asian Games	1	0	0
Asian championship	1	1	0

- Coach Deepali Deshpande has been training many rifle shooters for a long time, including three in the present Olympic team. It was Swapnil who was able to rise to the occasion on the Olympic stage and make the coach proud. Deepali had competed in the rifle 3-position event in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Unwavering: Kusale does India proud with another individual medal, this time the 50m 3 position bronze. RITU RAJ KONWAR

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Thursday:

Archery: Men's Individual (1/32 elimination): Pravin lost to Kao (Chn) 0-6.
Athletics: 20km race walk: Men's final: Vikash (30th), Paramjeet (37th), Akshdeep (DNF); Women's final: Priyanka (41st).
Badminton: Men: Singles (round-of-16): Lakshya bt Prannoy 21-12, 21-6; Doubles (quarterfinal): Satwiksairaj & Chirag lost to Chia & Soh (Mas) 21-13, 14-21, 16-21; Women (round-of-16): Sindhu lost to He (Chn) 19-21, 14-21.
Boxing (round-of-16): Men's 71kg: Nishant bt Tenorio (Ecu) 3-2; Women's 50kg: Nikhat lost to Wu (Chn) 0-5.
Golf: Men's Individual Stroke Play (round 1): Shubhankar (T29), Gaganjeet (T56).
Hockey: Men (Pool B): lost to Belgium 1-2.
Sailing: Women's Dinghy: Nethra (sixth in race 1); Men's Dinghy: Vishnu Saravanan (25th overall after two races).
Shooting: 50m Rifle 3 Position: Men's final: Swapnil (Bronze); Women's qualification: 18. Anjum and 31. Sift, DNQ for final.
Table tennis: Women (round-of-16): Sreeja lost to Sun (Chn) 10-12, 10-12, 8-11, 3-11.

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indians who will compete on Friday (all times IST):

Archery: Mixed Team (1/8 elimination): vs Indonesia (1.15 p.m.).
Athletics: Women's 5000m: Round 1 (Ankita, Parul), 9.40 p.m.; Men's shot put qualification (Tajinderpal), 11.40 p.m.
Badminton (session begins at 6.30 p.m.): Men (quarterfinal): Lakshya vs Chou (Tpe).
Golf: Men's Individual Stroke Play: Round 2 (Gaganjeet, Shubhankar), 12.30 p.m.
Judo (session begins at 1.30 p.m.): Women: +78kg (elimination round-of-32): Tulika vs Ortiz (Cub).
Hockey: Men (Pool B): vs Australia (4.45 p.m.).
Rowing: Men's Single Sculls final D (Balraj), 1.45 p.m.
Sailing: Women's Dinghy (Nethra), 3.35 p.m.; Men's Dinghy (Vishnu Saravanan), 3.50 p.m.
Shooting: 25m Pistol women's qualification (Precision: 12.30 p.m., Rapid: 3.30 p.m.): Manu, Esha; Skeet: Men's qualification - Day 1 (Anantjeet), 1 p.m.

I will come back stronger, vows Nikhat after a tough defeat in pre-quarterfinal

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Carrying a World champion's tag, having a sleepless night, surviving on an empty stomach for two days, Nikhat Zareen checked her emotions long enough before breaking down after getting a consoling hug from a sympathiser.

She had just lost to a tough opponent – Asian Games champion Wu Yu – in the women's 50kg pre-quarterfinals and her journey in Paris 2024 had ended at the North Paris Arena here on Thursday.

Nikhat approached the Olympics knowing she was a medal contender. She prepared systematically, overcame minor injuries and showed consistency coming into the Games. But running into the top-seeded boxer in the second round was never going to be easy.

Even before Nikhat could realise, 52kg World champion Wu, faster on her feet and quicker with her hands, gained ground. The Chinese moved in a flash, landed clean punches and moved out of Nikhat's reach to take the opening round 4-1.

The unseeded Indian upped the ante to connect a few hooks to impress the judges even though the Chinese led 2-0 in the second round.

Better bout management by Wu in the final three minutes, during which she used her fine foot work to defend herself and deny Nikhat any scope for a comeback, left the Indian behind again.

Bitter pill: Nikhat is crestfallen after falling to Wu. PTI

"Sorry, guys. It was a learning experience for me. I had not boxed with her (Wu) before. She was faster. I will analyse this bout once I am home. It was an intense bout. My last fight was tough, but she was playing her first. That also has an impact. I had worked hard, prepared myself physically and mentally for this Olympics. I will come back stronger," said Nikhat.

As the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had suspended the International Boxing Association (IBA) and did not recognise its events, Nikhat's World champion status did not fetch her any seeding. Had Nikhat secured a place in the final (like Lovlina, the only seeded Indian) of the Asian Games (the continental event recognised by IOC), she had a chance of getting a seeding.

Besides the lack of seeding, avoiding food to cut weight also affected Nikhat.

"I had not eaten anything in the last two days to cut my weight. I had not recovered well after the first bout. I did not sleep well as I was feeling hungry. Had I won, the effort would have been appreciated. But now it will look like an excuse. Nevertheless, I gave my best."

AROUND PARIS

Abhishek scores, but India loses to Belgium

The Indian hockey team suffered its first loss, going down 1-2 to defending champion Belgium after letting slip a 1-0 advantage on Thursday.

Abhishek gave India the lead in the 18th minute before Belgium scored through Thibeau Stockbroekx (33rd) and John-John Dohmen (44th) to seal the win and remain unbeaten.

Both India and Belgium have qualified for the quarterfinals from Pool B.

India had defeated New Zealand 3-2 before drawing 1-1 against Argentina and beating Ireland 2-0. India will next play Australia in the final pool match on Friday.

Lone bright spot: Abhishek sounded the boards with a sensational strike before Belgium fought back strongly. GETTY IMAGES

Nishant overcomes Rodriguez's challenge

Nishant Dev (71kg) recorded a hard fought 3-2 win over Ecuador's Tenorio Rodriguez to move into the quarterfinals of the men's boxing event.
The Indian delivered accurate and powerful combinations to stay ahead. Nishant will meet Marco Alvarez next.

Sreeja goes down fighting to World No. 1

Birthday girl Sreeja Akula had four game points in the first and five in the second before losing to World No. 1 Yingsha Sun in straight games in women's singles table tennis.

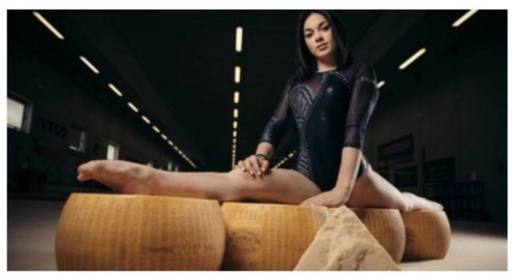
Sreeja had the opportunity to become the first Indian paddler to feature in the quarterfinals in the Olympics.

However, the challenge of beating the Chinese turned out to be an impossible task for the 26-year-old.

INBRIEF

Pintado and Yang claim the 20km race golds

Ecuador's Brian Pintado won the first athletics Olympic gold medal of the Paris Games on Thursday with victory in the men's 20km walk. Brazil's Caio Bonfim took the silver with Spain's world champion Alvaro Martin claiming bronze. China's Yang Jiayu produced a dominant performance to win the women's event. The 28-year-old came home clear of Spain's Maria Perez with Jemima Montag of Australia taking the bronze medal.



Italian gymnast Giorgia Villa backed by a cheese brand

Italian gymnast Giorgia Villa was part of the side that won silver in the all-around final, finishing second best to Simone Biles-led USA. However, the bigger draw has been Villa's sponsorship deal with cheese company Parmigiano-Reggiano. The unique photos she has posted, with blocks of parmesan cheese, have gone viral.

GOLDIES

South Korea: *Fencing Men's Sabre*
Katie Ledecky (USA): *Women's 1500m Freestyle*
Leon Marchand (Fra): *Men's 200m Breaststroke*
Pan Zhanle (Chn): *Men's 100m Freestyle*
Yang Jiayu (Chn): *Women's 20km Walk*
Brian Pintado (Ecu): *Men's 20km Walk*
Liu Yukun (Chn): *Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions*
New Zealand: *Rowing Women's Double Sculls*
Romania: *Rowing Men's Double Sculls*
Netherlands: *Rowing Women's Four*
USA: *Rowing Men's Four*
Zelym Kotsoiev (Aze): *Judo Men's -100kg*
Alice Bellandi (Ita): *Judo women's -78kg*
Giovanni de Gennaro (Ita): *Men's Kayak Single*
Simon Biles (USA): *Artistic Gymnastics Women's All-Around*
Summer McIntosh (Can): *Women's 200m Butterfly*

GOING FOR GOLD

Archery: Mixed Team
Athletics: Men's 10,000m
Badminton: Mixed Doubles
Cycling: BMX Racing Men & Women
Diving: Men's Synchronised 3m Springboard
Equestrian: Jumping Team
Fencing: Men's epee
Rowing: Men's & Women's Pair, LWT Men's & Women's Double Sculls
Sailing: Women's & Men's Windsurfing
Shooting: Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
Swimming: Men's 50m Freestyle, Women's 200m Backstroke, Men's 200m Individual Medley
Tennis: Mixed doubles
Trampoline Gymnastics: Women & Men

Day of massive disappointment for India

Sindhu's dream is shattered by He; Satwik-Chirag come unstuck against Chia-Soh; Lakshya remains the sole medal hope for the country

BADMINTON

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Not meant to be: Sindhu cuts a dejected figure during her match against He. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Losing the plot: Satwik-Chirag, despite a bright start, saw their game unravel as the contest progressed. AFP

It was a day of massive disappointment for India on the badminton courts of the Olympics at the Porte de La Chapelle arena here on Thursday.

Two-time medallist P.V. Sindhu's dream of a historic third medal remained unfulfilled while a strong medal hope, the Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty pair, could not rise to the expectations.

Lakshya Sen, who defeated compatriot H.S. Prannoy to enter the quarterfinals, was the only Indian shuttler left in the medal race.

World No.13 Lakshya dispatched the 22nd-placed Prannoy 21-12, 21-6 in a one-sided match.

Lakshya rode on some fine smashes and Prannoy's mistakes to have a five-point cushion at the break and built on it to take the first game.

Unplayable shots

The 22-year-old Lakshya banked on his better fitness to unleash some unplayable shots while a tiring Prannoy, who was down with chikungunya a few weeks back, committed unforced errors before bowing out.

Lakshya, a World championships bronze medallist, will take on another Worlds medallist, Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-chen, ranked 11th, in the quarterfinals.

While Lakshya expects his next match to be tough, Prannoy left wiping his tears.

Sindhu, who gave a good account of herself after returning from an injury, was beaten 21-19, 21-14 by World No. 9 He Bing Jiao of China in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals.

He's impressive court coverage and wide range of shots kept her ahead. The Chinese, leading 11-9 head-to-head, produced some brilliant down the line and cross court smashes to establish a five-point lead in the first game.

The 13th-ranked Sindhu got into her rhythm and made some successful challenges to draw level at 12-12 but He drilled two superb jump smashes to secure the first game.

The Chinese grabbed six consecutive points to go 8-2 up in the second. Sindhu fought well in some rallies but could not stop He.

"It's sad that I couldn't convert it to a win, especially the first game because it was 19-all at one point. We did whatever we could," said Sindhu.

The ouster of the World No. 5 duo Satwik-Chirag was a big blow as well.

The Malaysian third-ranked pair, Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh, rallied to beat the Indians 13-21, 21-14, 21-16 in a 64-minute men's doubles quarterfinal clash.

Satwik and Chirag, who won their last three engagements against the Malaysians, relied on their fine placement and powerful smashes to win the first game. Satwik-Chirag, who led 4-0 in the second, lost the momentum as Chia-Soh applied pressure. The neck-and-neck contest continued until the Indians erred, including hitting wide or into the net, and helped in their rivals' comeback.

"We should've been a little calmer," said Chirag "I think at 14-11, at a point or two, we got quite unlucky," he added.

"We have dealt with big matches. It's on the mental side not to take so much on to the court. Not to think like something extra special. We focused on that. We just wanted to give our 100 per cent," said Satwiksairaj.

Dazzling show: Biles conjured up an electrifying floor routine to pip Andrade to the gold medal. REUTERS

Biles sparkles to regain the all-around crown

GYMNASTICS

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Simone Biles recaptured the Olympic all-around crown on Thursday, seeing off Brazil's Rebeca Andrade for her sixth Olympic gold and second in Paris.

Biles, who famously withdrew from multiple events at the Tokyo Games three years ago with the disorientating "twisties", followed up her team gold with the United States earlier this week. Defending Olympic champion Sunisa Lee took bronze.

The 27-year-old Biles became the first gymnast to reclaim the individual title, which she won in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

She capped her performance with another electrifying floor routine to Taylor Swift's hit song *Ready for It*, her high-flying tumbling bringing the crowd to its feet.

She scored 59.131 points to finish 1.199 ahead of Andrade with 21-year-old Lee sealing bronze with her floor routine having trailed in fourth going into the final rotation.

A victory in 46 seconds for Algerian boxer in Olympics gender row

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who failed a gender eligibility test last year, won her opening bout at the Paris Olympics in just 46 seconds on Thursday against her distraught opponent.

Khelif advanced to the women's 66kg quarterfinal after unloading two strong punches on Angela Carini, who shrugged off attempts by the Algerian to shake her hand and collapsed to her knees in floods of tears. An Italian coach said Carini had suffered a badly hurt nose and the official decision was listed as an abandonment.

Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who will fight in 57kg category on Friday, were disqualified from the World Championships last year but deemed eligible to box in the women's competition in Paris.

The IOC website for accredited media in Paris said the 25-year-old Khelif was disqualified after "elevated levels of testosterone failed to meet the eligibility criteria".

Tough luck: Khelif and Lin were disqualified from last year's Worlds after "elevated levels of testosterone failed to meet criteria". AP

Both boxed in the women's event at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago.

Khelif, who came fifth in Tokyo, was given a huge roar when she came into the North Paris Arena, where there were numerous Algeria fans with the country's flag. Before and during the very brief bout they chanted her name, but the action itself was over in a flash.

Earlier on Thursday, Algeria's Olympic Committee condemned what it called "malicious and unethical attacks directed against our distinguished athlete, Imane Khelif, by certain foreign media".

Khelif and Lin were disqualified from the 2023 Worlds in New Delhi, which was run by the International Boxing Association (IBA).

Lin was stripped of her bronze after undergoing "biochemical" tests mandated by the IBA.

However, the International Olympic Committee is running the boxing in the French capital because of governance, financial and ethical issues at the IBA.

At least one woman boxer at the Games has spoken out about the controversy.

Australia's Caitlin Parker is in the 75kg class so will not face Khelif or Lin, but she made her stance on the controversy clear. "I don't agree with that being allowed, especially in combat sports as it can be dangerous."

Medals table

	Country	G	S	B	T
1	China	11	7	5	23
2	France	8	11	8	27
3	Japan	8	3	5	16
4	USA	7	14	13	34
5	Australia	7	6	4	17
6	Great Britain	6	7	7	20
7	Korea	6	3	3	12
8	Italy	5	6	4	15
9	Canada	3	2	3	8
10	Germany	2	2	2	6
44	**India**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**3**

Zheng ousts Swiatek, makes it to the final

TENNIS

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Zheng Qinwen stunned women's World No. Iga Swiatek 6-2, 7-5 on Thursday to become the first Chinese player to reach an Olympic Games tennis singles final. It also broke the Pole's 25-match win streak at Roland-Garros.

Zverev dethroned

In the men's section, Italy's Lorenzo Musetti knocked out defending champion Alexander Zverev with a 7-5, 7-5 win over the German in the quarterfinals.

He will take on Novak Djokovic, who beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6(3), for a place in the final.

Zheng. AP

Earlier, World No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz booked his place in the semifinals by seeing off Tommy Paul of the United States 6-3, 7-6(7).

Alcaraz will next face Felix Auger-Aliassime, who became the first Canadian to make the last four with a 6-4, 6-7(8), 6-3 win over sixth-seeded Casper Ruud.

Sarabjot felicitated by Union Sports Minister Mandaviya

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated Olympic medallist Sarabjot Singh with a cash award of ₹22.5 lakh here on Thursday.

Sarabjot, who had won the mixed air pistol bronze with Manu Bhaker, returned from Paris along with other shooters Arjun Babuta, Ramita Jindal, Rhythm Sangwan, Sandeep Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema. Coaches Suma Shirur, Samaresh Jung and Sarabjot's personal coach Abhishek Rana also returned with the squad.

The Sports Minister acknowledged the good performance of the shooters in Paris.

Recognition: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya honours Sarabjot in New Delhi on Thursday. Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse and Sarabjot's coach Rana are also seen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Each one of you is a champion. It was hard for some of you to come to terms with the fact that you missed the medal by a whisker.

"But, don't let that loss lessen your passion for the game. Instead, let it fuel your motivation to excel in future competitions," he said.

Expressing happiness about the way Khelo India scheme was grooming young champions to world standards, the Minister said: "Sarabjot is a personification of this pyramidal structure. Khelo India to Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to the Olympic podium finish. But, support alone cannot guarantee results.

"It is the hard work of the athletes, the motivation of their parents, coaches and those around them that ensures their final victory."

The Minister also pointed out that the new scheme KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Initiative), a nation-wide drive to nurture sports talent, would be a "game-changer" in identifying future Olympians from the grassroots level.

Track and field duels to savour in Paris

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Track and field takes centrestage at the Paris Olympics on Friday with a swathe of stars on show. *AFP Sports* picks out two of the many duels to savour in the Stade de France.

Men: 100m, Marcell Jacobs (Ita) vs Noah Lyles (USA): A fascinating clash between the mercurial Italian and the livewire American – the former defending his surprise title from Tokyo and the latter trying to rubber-stamp the image of himself as the rightful successor to Usain Bolt. The two could not be more of a contrast physically – Jacobs is all muscles while Lyles has remained lithe, but on form since the Olympics the American is odds-on favourite.

Women: 400m hurdles, Femke Bol (Ned) vs Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA): Probably the most keenly-anticipated potential match-up of the Games pits world champion Bol against the 24-year-old American who has dominated the event for the past three years. The Dutchwoman has twice taken minor medals behind the world record-holder – a bronze in Tokyo and silver at the 2022 Worlds – but she certainly comes to Paris race-fit whereas the American has been sparing in her appearances. Bol can take heart that no-one has successfully defended the title. But McLaughlin-Levrone has shown she is all about making history.

A thorough gentleman: cricket fraternity pays tribute to Gaekwad

His dedication, resilience, and love for the game were unparalleled; he was not just a cricketer but a mentor and a friend to many, and his contributions will always be remembered, says BCCI chief Binny

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Aunshuman Gaekwad's "dedication, resilience, and unparalleled love" for the game were fondly recalled as tributes poured in for the former India player and coach, who passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Gaekwad, who also served Indian cricket as a selector, passed away on Wednesday in Vadodara. He donned the national jersey in 40 Tests and 15 ODIs.

The demise was mourned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and bigwigs of Indian cricket.

A member of the 1983 World Cup-winning side and current BCCI chief Roger Binny, who was a one-time teammate of Gaekwad, said the cricketing community will miss him.

"His dedication, resilience, and love for the game were unparalleled. He was not just a cricketer but a mentor and a friend to many. The cricketing community will miss him dearly, and his contributions will always be remembered," said Binny.

"Saddened by the demise of Gaekwad. May god give strength to his family and loved ones," wrote India head coach Gautam Gambhir, who is currently in Sri Lanka with the Indian team for a white-ball series, on his *X* account.

Former off-spinner Harbhajan Singh had a close relationship with Gaekwad, having made his international debut in 1998 when the latter was the team coach.

"Gaekwad's demise is heartbreaking news. Have fond memories of making my Test debut under him as coach. He was a thorough gentleman. Indian cricket will be poorer in his absence," said Harbhajan.

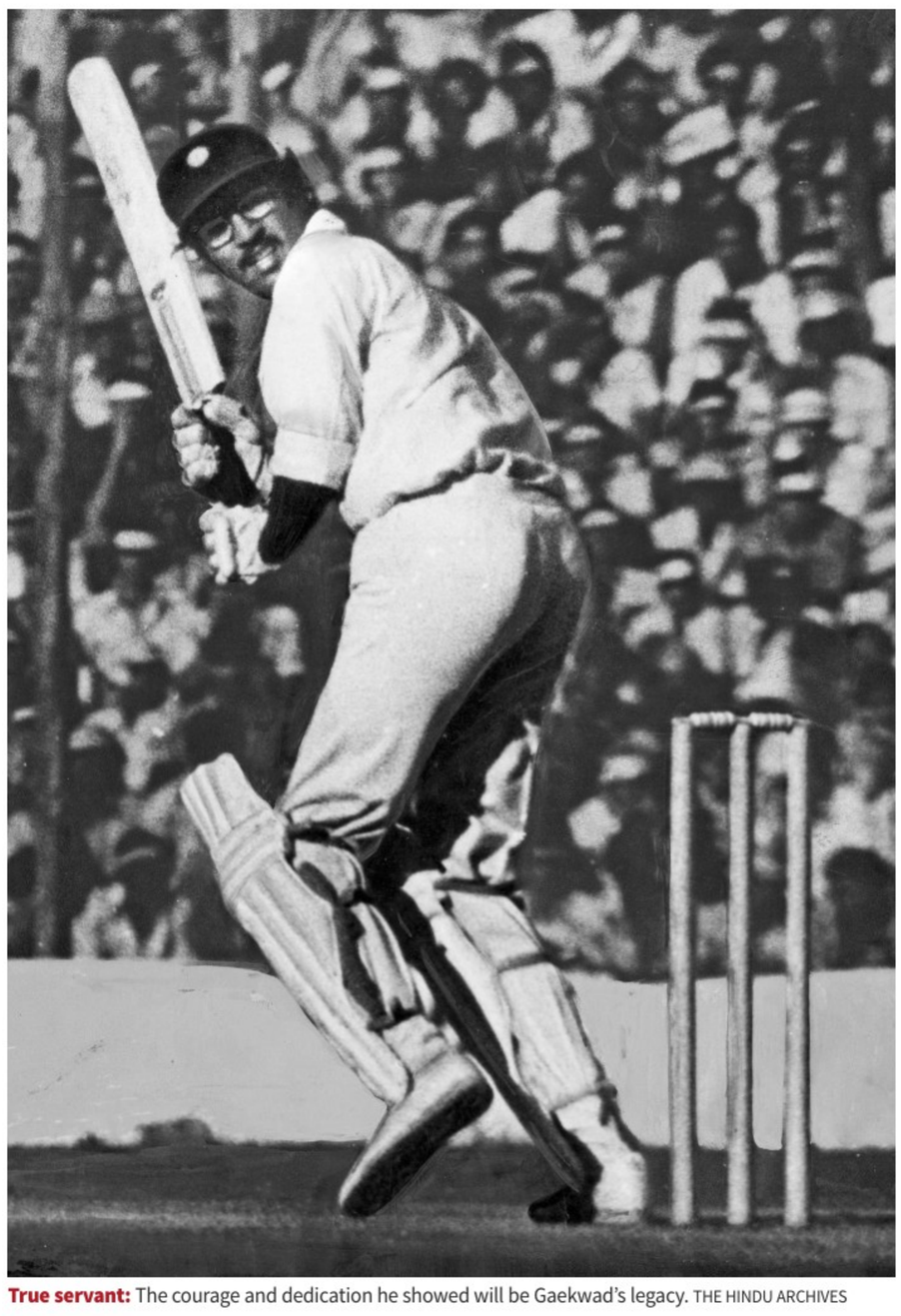
Prime Minister Modi condoled the death of Gaekwad, saying he had made an immense contribution to Indian cricket.

"Gaekwad was a gifted player and an outstanding coach. Condolences to his family and admirers," Modi said through his official *X* account.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah termed it a "profound loss". "A true servant of Indian cricket, he will be remembered for his courage, wisdom, and dedication to the sport.

"His contribution to the game has been significant, and he leaves behind a lasting legacy," said Shah in a BCCI statement.

The BCCI added that Gaekwad faced the best bowlers in the world without flinching one bit.



True servant: The courage and dedication he showed will be Gaekwad's legacy. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Lucky to have had a few conversations with Gaekwad, says India skipper Rohit

S. Dipak Ragav
COLOMBO

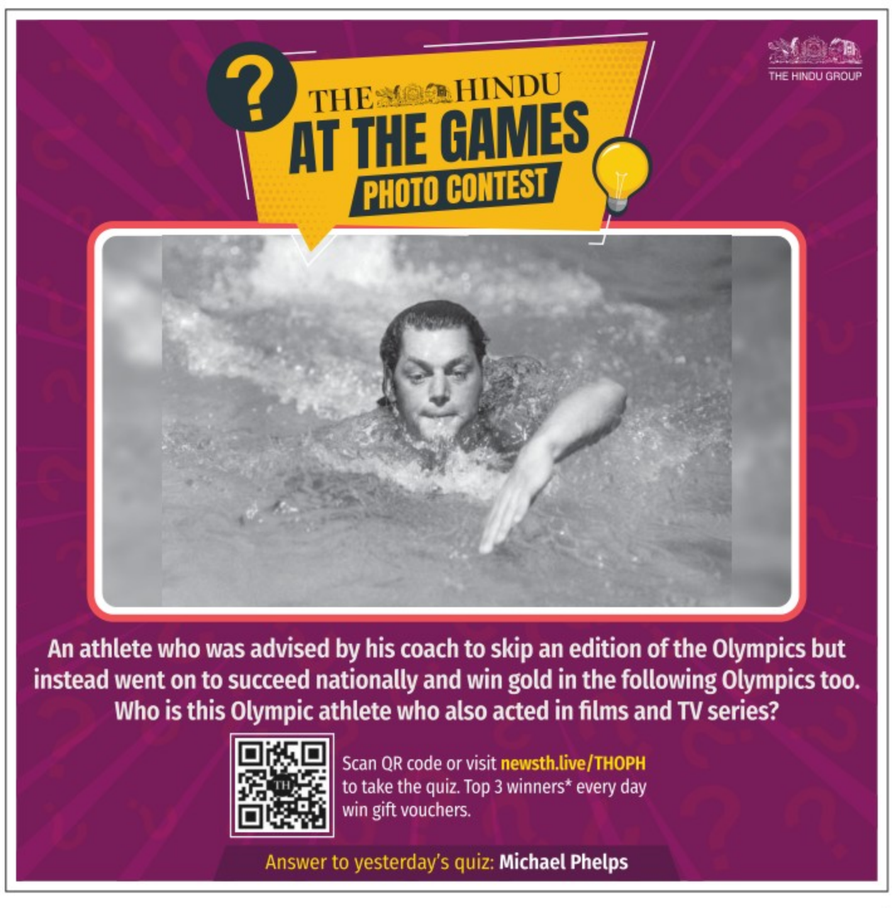
Rohit Sharma shared his heartfelt thoughts about former India cricketer and coach Aunshuman Gaekwad, who passed away on Wednesday. He also recalled interacting with him during his early days during the First Class matches.

"I was absolutely devastated to hear the news. I was lucky to have had a few conversations with him when we had the BCCI awards. Also, on a personal note, when I was playing Ranji Trophy, he was there to watch, and I had a chance to speak to him. He had a few things to talk about my game as well, which was overwhelming for me because he had been a great cricketer for India," said Rohit.

> When I was playing Ranji Trophy, he was there to watch, and I had a chance to speak to him

"It is always nice to learn from your seniors and understand how cricket was played back in the day, how tough it was, his experiences about how he played, and what his visions were for cricket.

"For me to understand that, it was a great learning experience at that point. I was lucky that I had few chances to meet and talk to him personally."


THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
AT THE GAMES
PHOTO CONTEST
An athlete who was advised by his coach to skip an edition of the Olympics but instead went on to succeed nationally and win gold in the following Olympics too. Who is this Olympic athlete who also acted in films and TV series?
Scan QR code or visit newsth.live/THOPH to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz: Michael Phelps

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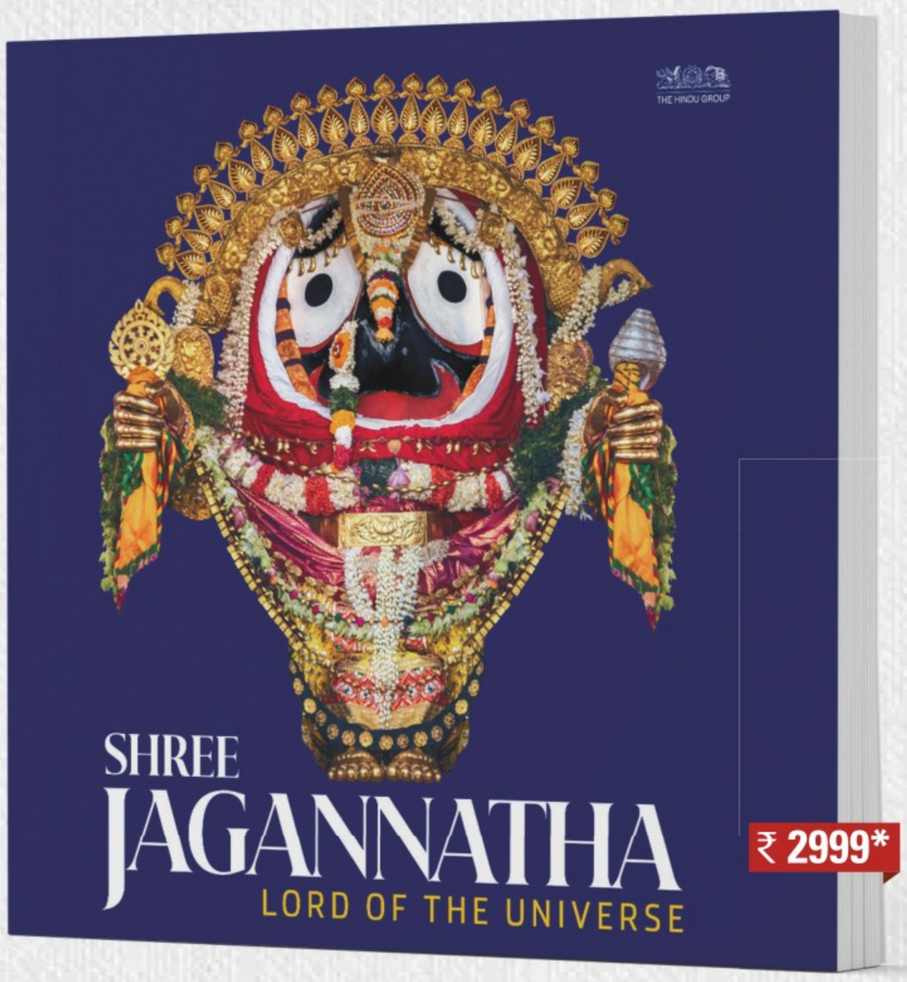

Shree Jagannatha- Lord of the Universe is a picture-rich coffee-table book on the fascinating Lord Jagannatha temple in Puri, Odisha.

The book is a collection of pictures and articles by well-known writers from Odisha on culture and religion. It covers the temple's history, the unique rituals that characterise Jagannatha-worship and, of course, the famous Ratha Yatra.

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India looks to tame the Lions in ODIs too

The visitors have been bolstered by arrival of seniors like Rohit and Virat; Sri Lanka squandered winning opportunities in the T20Is

INDIA IN SRI LANKA

S. Dipak Ragav
COLOMBO

Well begun is half done. India's newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir, couldn't have asked for a better start to his tenure as the Men in Blue blanked hosts Sri Lanka 3-0 in the T20Is in Pallekele.

As the action now shifts to Colombo for the three-match ODI series starting at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium on Friday, the visitors – bolstered by the arrival of seniors like skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, and Kuldeep Yadav – will look to maintain the winning run.

Unlike in T20Is, where the team is undergoing a transition, India has a solid core in the 50-over format. The upcoming series allows it to shore up a few spots and build a bench strength for the future.

Considering Rohit's men are scheduled to play only six ODIs – three here and three against England next year at home – before the Champions Trophy in February 2025 in Pakistan, these matches could be vital for the new coach and captain to decide on their vision for the team.

One area of focus will be finding a third pacer to complement Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.

Way to go: Skipper Rohit will be delighted by the camaraderie between coach Gambhir and Kohli. PTI & AFP

Mohammed Shami was a revelation at last year's ODI World Cup, but the management will look to start grooming someone as cover for Shami, who will soon be 34-years-old. Apart from left-arm pacers Arshdeep Singh and Khaleel Ahmed, the selectors have included young pacer Harshit Rana, who impressed in the IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders.

Siraj will lead the pace attack here and the 30-year-old will have fond memories of this venue, where his fiery spell of six for 21 in the Asia Cup final last year helped India bundle out the Lankans for just 50 and secure the title.

The other puzzle will be the wicketkeeper's slot and whether Rahul will be continue to be the custodian behind the stumps. The Karnataka batter has done well playing in the middle-order and donning the big gloves over the last two years. But, with Rishabh Pant back in the ODI set-up after two years, it poses an interesting dilemma for the think-tank. While Pant gives the batting line-up an extra left-handed option, playing him alongside Rahul will force India to play only five front-line bowlers.

Sri Lanka, in contrast, looks unsettled after suffering a twin blow on the eve of the series opener, losing pacers Dilshan Madushanka (hamstring) and Matheesha Pathirana (shoulder) due to injuries. The T20 series saw the hosts squander winning opportunities in all three games because of middle-order collapses and it is an area Charith Asalanka's men will look to quickly address.

With an inexperienced pace attack, the home side may bank on the strength of its spin attack, on a pitch that has historically been slow-paced, to tie down a strong Indian batting line-up.

Having lost its last 10 encounters against India across formats, the Lions will look to get one over their neighbours and give their fans something to cheer about.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed and Harshit Rana.
Sri Lanka: Charith Asalanka (Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Akila Dananjaya, Asitha Fernando, Mohamed Shiraz and Eshan Malinga.
Match starts at 2.30 p.m. IST.

INBRIEF

Pragg, Arjun join Superstar Men for GCL Season 2

R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nodirbek Abdusattorov will join Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand in the Superstar Men line-up in season two of the Global Chess League, a FIDE-rated tournament, from October 3 and 12. Others in Superstar Men include US GM Hikaru Nakamura, Wei Yi, Vidit Gujrathi, Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Richard Rapport, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Teimour Radjabov, Alexander Grischuk, Parham Maghsoodloo and Vladislav Artemiev.

Indian MotoGP calendar from 2025 confirmed

The Indian Grand Prix calendar for MotoGP from 2025 was confirmed on Thursday with Dorna Sports, the exclusive commercial rights holder of MotoGP, confirming a new contract with the government of Uttar Pradesh. A new three-year contract between MotoGP and Eurosport, through to 2026 was also finalised. "India is a key market and fanbase for MotoGP,". said Dorna's chief sporting officer Carlos Ezpeleta. Shikhar Dhawan has been roped in as ambassador.

AGORC pips DYES-A in Hockey Karnataka League

Trishul Ganapathy scored a 41st minute winner as AGORC edged out DYES-A 2-1 in the Hockey Karnataka League championship in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The results: AGORC 2 (Abharan Sudev 29, Trishul Ganapathy 41) bt DYES-A 1 (M.K. Bharath 33); SAI STC 4 (D.R. Pavan 25, Nakul Malnad 28, Annam Shanmukh 32, P.B. Sunil 34) bt Customs & GST 2 (G. Vishwas 20, Advaith Nachappa 38).

Who'll get the nod? There is likely to be a toss-up between Pant and Rahul. AFP

It is a tough call, says Rohit

S. Dipak Ragav
COLOMBO

Rohit Sharma, refreshed and rejuvenated after a month's break post the successful T20 World Cup campaign, made it clear India will look to maintain the high quality of cricket it has played in recent times in the upcoming one-day series against Sri Lanka, which begins on Friday.

The Indian skipper also refused to see the series as preparation for the Champions Trophy next year. "It's not a practice ground; it's still an international game," said Rohit. "We will keep in mind what we want to achieve as a team, but this is by no means a preparation or practice," he said.

"When you are representing the nation, the quality of the cricket you want to play should remain the same as how we have played in the last few years," he added.

While India has been a strong force in ODIs recently, the 37-year-old insisted that teams can't afford to stand still.

"It is not one particular area we are looking to improve; it is the overall game because in sports you cannot sit happily doing something."

"We want to challenge ourselves and see what we can do differently as a team. Whatever we have done in the past was good for that particular time. Time keeps moving forward, and we also have to."

> We need to adapt ourselves when playing in conditions in which it holds up (off the pitch). There is no excuse and for us to win is the ultimate thing
>
> **JAYASURIYA**
> Sri Lanka Interim head coach

When asked about the wicketkeeping slot, Rohit said it has yet to be decided if it will be K.L. Rahul or Rishabh Pant but felt it was a pleasant problem to have.

"It is a tough call; both are quality players. It is not easy to pick a player when you have good quality like that. They are match-winners. I think having these problems is good and look forward to having them till I am captain," said Rohit.

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards.

Sri Lanka vs India: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 6.30 p.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Arjun's big ton highlights Chintamani SA thumping win over Whirlwind Cricketers

Arjun Reddy top-scored with 160 as Chintamani SA thrashed Whirlwind Cricketers by 292 runs in the KSCA (Group I) U-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Chintamani SA 369/9 in 50 overs (Shreehaan Arinjai 70, Arjun Reddy 160, Taman Ponnanna Maletira 56, Tanish M. Bellad 25, Prince Yadav 3/65) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 77 in 17.2 overs (Shreehaan Arinjai 4/11).

Jawahar SC (2) 42 in 20.5 overs (Jayanth R. Gowda 4/7, Tabrez Allam 3/14) lost to Vultures 43 for no loss in 6.1 overs.

Bharath 250 in 42.3 overs (Karan Singh 50, S. Monish 111) bt Neptune 148 in 35.3 overs (P. Ved 42, Tanmay Gowda Vikas 35, Aarush Mishra 3/27).

Minerva 195 in 34.4 overs (Prakhar Vishal Garud 26, Yashmith K. Gowda 28, K. Gagan Sai 5/21) lost to Modern 149 for no loss in 24.1 overs (S. Manjunath 59 n.o., Nishchinth Parmashwar 75 n.o.).

Vijaya, Malur 246/9 in 50 overs (Amogh R. Shetty 106, Harshil Arigala 74, Shaurya Manish 28, K. Preetham Raj 6/39) bt Ranji 147 in 39 overs (T. Chinmay 34, Sujith 26, Vaibhav Sharma 5/37, K.P. Ahan 3/33).

Jawahar SC (1) 232/8 in 47 overs (Rudra Singh 43, Athish Karthik Kumar 50, Abhinav Jha 46 n.o., Jairaj Kaushik 3/45) bt Bangalore Star CA 98 in 31.4 overs (Parva Virat 54, Harish Raghavan 5/19).

Visweswarampuram (2) 109/9 in 24 overs (Akash Ayyagiri 45, Sanjit Sathish 32, M. Malatesh 3/21) lost to Hammonds 110/1 in 21.4 overs (Sachith Shenoy Konchady 45 n.o., C. Yajath Sai 28, M. Malatesh 25 n.o.).

FUCC (2) 334 in 49.1 overs (V.R. Nitesh Gowda 26, Aadithya Vishwa Karma 70, V. Srithan 32, Dhruv Modhe 73, Arsh Arora 39, Ansh Singh 38, Shrutan V. Shetty 4/65, Ganesh Kailash 3/43) bt Mount Joy 157 in 32.5 overs (Tejas Mahendra Jituri 44, Ganesh Kailash 49, S. Jayanth Srinivas 4/12, Roshan K. Naidu 4/27).

Palar SC, Kolar 122 in 34.5 overs (M. Athreya 34, Kashish Bahuguna 3/42) lost to Chamarajpet 124/2 in 18.1 overs (Vishruth Uday Krishna 26, Yash Jayantilal Diwani 70 n.o.).

Young Lions Club 333/8 in 50 overs (K. Purna Chandra 33, M. Rohith 115 n.o., Vivek Naik 46, A.G. Adithya 75) bt Citizen Cultural CA 122 in 31.3 overs (M.R. Sashvith Somanna 47, S. Vinay Radha 3/28).

Karnataka Youth CA, Malur 155 in 39.5 overs (S. Shivaprasad 70, S. Agastya 3/51, Dhruv Krishnan 3/16) lost to Vijaya 159/1 in 18.2 overs (Yash Jadhav 94, Dhruv Krishnan 49 n.o.).

Coles 100 in 25.4 overs (W. Aadil 6/24) lost to Jupiter CA 103/5 in 34.4 overs (W. Aadil 40, Shaik Sabir 31).

Karishma 'tricks as Kickstart thumps Pink Panthers

Karishma Purushottam scored a hat-trick as Kickstart FC blanked Pink Panthers FC 9-0 in the Karnataka Women's League football here on Thursday.

The results:

Kickstart FC 9 (Karishma Purushottam 9, 10, 74, Renu 13, 30, 69, Tansree Roy 37, Durga 44, Mariyammal Balamurugan 60) bt Pink Panthers FC 0.

Maatru Pratishtana FC 4 (Santosh 21, V.G. Lekhsri 43, Nancy 50, T.R. Harshita 58) bt United FC Kodagu 2 (Mangpineng Khongsai 5, Ayush Malvi 78).

Kerala Blasters drowns Mumbai City in a glut of goals

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

A full strength Kerala Blasters FC inflicted a 8-0 defeat on the Indian Super League Cup champion Mumbai City FC in a Group C league match of 133rd Durand Cup football, at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Thursday. The combination of Moroccan forward Noah Sadaoui and Ghanaian striker Kwame Peprah in the Blasters' attack scored a hat-trick each to contribute to the bulk of goals.

Ishan on song

Ishan Pandita, who came in for Peprah as a late substitute, fired two quick goals to complete the massive scoreline for Kerala Blasters.

Mumbai City, which fielded its reserve team, was left to defend its citadel for a greater part of the action as Kerala Blasters proved too big a challenge for its youthful team.

The result:
Group C: Kerala Blasters FC 8 (Noah Sadaoui 31, 50, 76, Kwame Peprah 38, 45, 53, Ishan Pandita 86, 87) bt Mumbai City FC 0.

Unstoppable: Kerala Blasters' players celebrate after the third goal against Mumbai FC.
DEBASISH BHADURI

Mukund enters the last eight in Taipei

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

S. Mukund sailed past Derek Pham of Australia 6-4, 6-1 to enter the quarterfinals of the $25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Taipei, Taiwan, on Thursday.

In the $75,000 ITF women's event in Lexington, USA, qualifier Shrivalli Bhamidipaty reached the pre-quarterfinals with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Fiona Crawley.

The results: €148,625 Challenger, Porto, Portugal: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Joshua Paris (GBr) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Pedro Araujo & Joao Domingues (Por) 6-4, 6-4; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Hunter Reese (USA) & Divij Sharan 6-3, 6-7(7), [10-6]; Arjun Kadhe & Arthur Reymond (Fra) bt Jonathan Eysseric (Fra) & George Goldhoff (USA) 2-6, 6-4, [10-6].
€74,825 Challenger, Liberec, Czech Republic: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nikolas Izquierdo & Carlos Taberner (Esp) bt Siddhant Banthia & Courtney Lock (Zim) 6-2, 6-7(5), [10-8].
$25,000 ITF men, Taipei, Taiwan: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): S Mukund bt Derek Pham (Aus) 6-4, 6-1; Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) bt Sidharth Rawat 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Makoto Ochi & Ryotaro Taguchi (Jpn) bt Sai Karteek Reddy & Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul (Tha) 6-2, 6-4.
$25,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Rishab Agarwal bt Etienne Teboh (Cmr) 6-3, 6-4; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Parth Aggarwal 6-3, 6-1; Bor Artnak (Slo) bt Dev Javia 6-1, 6-0; Mathys Erhard (Fra) bt Muni Ananth Mani 6-0, 6-0; S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Hillel Rousseau (Hai) 6-1, 1-0 (retired); Karan Singh bt Yuvan Nandal 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Prajwal Dev & Adil Kalyanpur bt Maxime Gouge (Fra) & Eytan Miessen (Bel) 6-2, 6-0; Rishab & Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Parth & Abraham Asaba (Gha) 6-3, 6-4; Isaac Nortey (Gha) & Karan bt Ethan Sibanda & Mehluli Sibanda (Zim) 6-2, 6-4; Dev & Rishi Reddy bt Aditya Balsekar & Yash Chaurasia 7-6(4), 6-3.
$75,000 ITF women, Lexington, USA: Singles (first round): Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Fiona Crawley (USA) 6-4, 7-5.
$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sarah Grey (GBr) & Ankita Raina bt Lauryn John-Baptiste (GBR) & Eri Shimizu (Jpn) 6-4, 6-2.
$25,000 ITF women, Mohammedia, Morocco: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Ikumi Yamazaki (Jpn) bt Vaishnavi Adkar 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF women, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Aglaya Fedorova 6-1, 6-1.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Vaidehi Chaudhari & Elena Malygina (Est) bt Ekaterina Khayrutdinova & Tatyana Nikolenko (Kaz) 6-1, 6-7(2), [10-4].
$15,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Daria Egorova & Rada Zolotareva bt Saumya Vig & Elina Zakharova 7-5, 6-3.

HCL National squash in Mumbai from August 4

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 80th National squash championship, sponsored by HCL, will be staged at the Bombay Gymkhana Club in Mumbai from August 4 to 10.

About 670 players, a record number as compared to the figures of 450 and 417 in the last two editions, will be competing in the championship which will also serve as the selection criteria for the World Team championship to be staged in Hong Kong in December.

Anahat Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar, the champions of the last edition, are expected to be seen in action along with a host of other prominent players.

"HCL aims to foster the growth of squash by increasing awareness and participation while unlocking the full potential of athletes, coaches and referees by providing them with global opportunities," said Rajat Chandolia, brand head, HCL.

"The overwhelming response to this year's championship is a testament to the growing popularity of squash in India. We anticipate good competition and believe this event will inspire countless individuals to take up the sport," said SRFI secretary-general.